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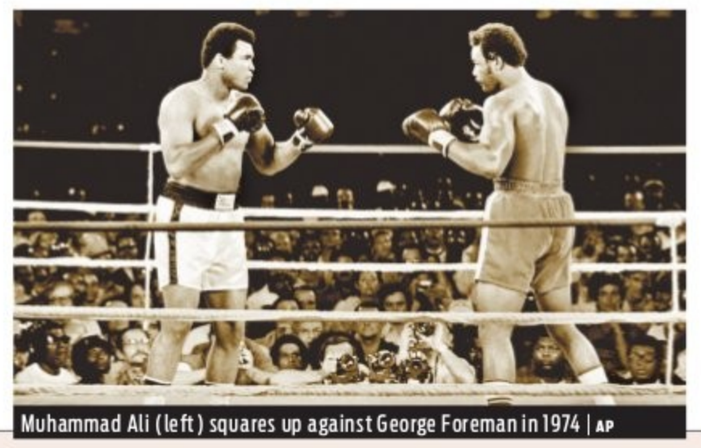

Muhammad Ali (left) squares up against George Foreman in 1974 | AP

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RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE SILENT FOREVER: FOREMAN NO MORE

Former heavyweight champion George Foreman, who lost to Muhammad Ali in boxing's iconic 1974 "Rumble in the Jungle", died on Friday. He was 76

SCHOOL DROPOUT TO A WORLD CHAMPION

Born in Texas on January 10, 1949, George Foreman grew up in Houston. The man who raised him was frequently absent and often drunk. Fondly known as Big George, he dropped out of school and despite facing adversities went on to become an Olympic gold medallist, two-time world champion and a legend of boxing

BIG FIGURES INCLUDING TRUMP PAY RESPECTS

- US President Donald Trump said "GREAT FIGHTER" whom he "knew well". Legendary promoter Bob Arum saluted Foreman as "one of the biggest punchers and personalities the sport has ever seen."
- "His contribution to boxing and beyond will never be forgotten," former champion Mike Tyson wrote on X | **P13**

81

HE FOUGHT 81 TIMES AS A PROFESSIONAL, WINNING 76, 68 OF THOSE BY KNOCKOUT

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Delimitation meet proposes broad fight, freezing LS seats for 25 years

First JAC meet resolves to submit representation to PM; State Assemblies to pass resolution

K EZHILARASAN @Chennai

THE first Joint Action Committee (JAC) meeting on delimitation convened by DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday unanimously adopted a resolution demanding that the freeze on the parliamentary constituencies based on the 1971 Census population be extended by another 25 years as it was done in 2001.

The meeting in which Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, his Telangana and Punjab counterparts, Revanth Reddy and Bhagwant Mann, Karnataka Dy CM D K Shivakumar, and around 20 other leaders of different parties from six states took part, also laid a road map for taking forward the fight legally and politically.

The resolution pointed out that the 42nd, 84th, and 87th constitutional amendments, which delayed population-based delimitation at various points in the past, were to protect/incentivise states that had implemented population control measures effectively.

It said there is a need to extend the freeze by another 25 years since the goal of national population stabilisation has not been achieved yet. Saying that the states whose population share came down due to the population control programme should not be penalised, the resolution also urged the Centre to enact necessary constitutional amendments for this purpose.

The JAC expressed concern on the alleged lack of transparency and clarity in the impending delimitation exercise from the union government and the absence of consultation with various stakeholders. It appreciated CM Stalin for taking up this initiative to "safeguard the political and economic future of the performing states in India," a release from the state government later said.

"Any delimitation exercise ... to improve the content and character of democracy should be carried out transparently, enabling political parties of all the states, state governments and other stakeholders to deliberate, discuss and contribute to it," the resolution said. It said a core committee consisting of MPs from the represented states will coordinate parliamentary strategies to counter any attempts by the union government to undertake a delimitation exercise contrary to the principles articulated by the JAC.

The committee will submit a joint representation to the PM during the ongoing parliamentary session. **P5**

(From right) Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy, Karnataka Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, CM M K Stalin, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, and BRS chief K T Rama Rao, along with other JAC members in Chennai on Saturday | PTI

Karnataka, TN, and every progressive state in this room face a stark choice: submit to domination or rise in resistance. We have chosen resistance

K'taka Deputy CM D K Shivakumar

Centre planning delimitation without consultation as it is driven by "narrow political interests" and not by Constitutional principles or democratic imperatives

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan

Protest is only for 'fair delimitation': Stalin

Chennai: This protest is not against delimitation. I think everyone will agree that this protest is for 'fair delimitation', said Chief Minister M K Stalin. He also said a legal option could be explored and favoured setting up of an expert panel to draw up the political and legal action plan on the issue

ALLEGED DIRTY MONEY

CJI forms 3-member panel to probe charges against Delhi HC judge

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @New Delhi

CHIEF Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Saturday constituted a three-member committee to probe into the allegations of illegal cash stash in the house of Justice Yashwant Varma, a Delhi High Court judge.

The CJI constituted the committee after receiving a report from Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, in the matter. The CJI had on Friday directed Justice Upadhyaya to initiate an in-house enquiry into the allegations. Besides, the CJI is exploring the possibility of Justice Varma's transfer.

Later in the day, the Supreme Court released 25 pages of documents, including the response of Justice Varma, the Delhi HC Chief Justice Upadhyaya's recommendation for a probe to the CJI, photos and the fire department's video purportedly showing what appeared to be partially burnt currency notes.

Justice Upadhyaya's letter says since the room that caught fire on March 15 was cleaned up the next day, "I am of the prima facie opinion that the entire matter warrants a deeper probe" because no outsider had access to it.

For his part, Justice Varma claimed he had no access to the room that was unlocked and outside his dwelling.

The panel constituted by the CJI comprises Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab & Haryana, Justice G S Sandhawalia, Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, and Justice Anu Sivaraman, judge of the Karnataka High Court.

The Delhi CJ has been asked not to assign any judicial work to Justice Varma, as per a Supreme Court release.

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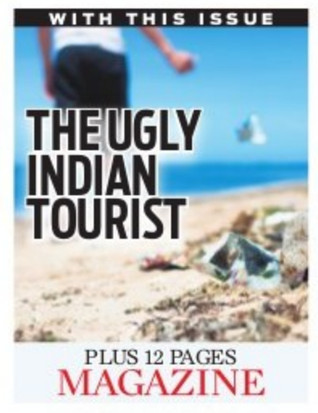

STARS LIGHT UP KNIGHT SKY

Actor Shah Rukh Khan and Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli perform a gig during the Opening Ceremony of the IPL in Kolkata on Saturday. Chasing 175, RCB won the first match beating Kolkata Knight Riders by seven wickets | AP | **P13**

Fadnavis: Rioters could face bulldozer action

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday warned of bulldozer action against the Nagpur rioters if they fail to pay the damages incurred during the recent communal riots.

It flew in the face of a Supreme Court ruling in November last year that demolishing properties solely because occupants are accused or convicted of crimes, without due process, is unconstitutional. Fadnavis, after taking stock of the situation, said that his government would recover the cost of damages to properties during the clashes from the rioters. "If the rioters fail to pay up, bulldozer action will be initiated. We would seize their properties and sell them to recover the damage," he said, and added that the compensation for the riot victims would be distributed soon.

The CM held a meeting with senior officers at the police commissioner's office and reviewed the police response to the riots. He said that no one would be spared for attacking the police. "My government will not rest until those responsible for attacking the police are found and dealt with sternly," he said.

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EXPRESS READ

3-year-old girl dies as tree falls in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: A three-year-old girl died after a tree fell on her while she was riding a two-wheeler with her father here on Saturday night. She suffered head injuries and died at Bowring Hospital | **P2**

RSS: India's duty to protect Hindus in B'desh

Bengaluru: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh joint-general secretary Arun Kumar said protection of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh is the responsibility of India | **P4**

SC team visits strife-torn Manipur, asks locals to hold on to hope

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

A delegation of Supreme Court judges led by Justice B R Gavai visited Manipur on Saturday and expressed hope that peace will return to the state roiled by ethnic violence sooner rather than later. "We know that all of you are going through a difficult phase. But with the assistance of everyone — the executive, the legislature and the judiciary — this phase will be over within a short period," Justice Gavai told a gathering in Churachandpur.

"It is our Constitution that has kept us united and strong. Have faith in our Constitution. The Constitution will ensure that peace returns to Manipur one day," he said. Justice Gavai, who is the executive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority, added, "Our Constitution aims at justice — social, economic and political. The Constitution aims for all citizens in the country to have access to justice in a speedy manner and at an affordable rate." Justice Gavai virtually inaugurated free legal services camps and medical camps on the occasion.

The delegation also comprised Justices Vikram Nath, M M Sundresh, K V Viswanathan and N Kotiswar Singh.

'K'taka bandh' call evokes lukewarm response

Police detain a Kannada activist during Karnataka bandh in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KANNADA Okkuta leader and activist Vatal Nagaraj's call for 'Karnataka bandh' against the attack on a state-run bus conductor in Belagavi last month for not speaking Marathi received a lukewarm response across the state, including Bengaluru.

Kannada activists demanded that the state government issue an order banning Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) in Belagavi to protect the interests of Kannadigas.

While the bandh call received a mixed response in Mysuru, it failed to evoke any significant response in districts such as Belagavi, Kolar, Davangere, Chitradurga and Shivamogga.

As it was the fourth Saturday of the month, government offices, banks and private companies remained closed. **P4**

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 22.03.2025 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttarayana • Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Phalguna • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Navami 12.35 am • Nakshatra: Purvashada 11.47 pm • Moon in Makara Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER — MIN 22°C | MAX 29°C — FORECAST: Passing showers

Sunrise 06.21 am | Sunset 06.30 pm | Moonrise 01.15 am | Moonset 12.43 pm

MIND & MATTER: HEALING HUMAN MINDS

This NGO is helping participants understand areas of mental health like communication, empathy, inter-personal relationships and more

SAPTARSHI C @ Bengaluru

Every alternate Sunday morning, a group of individuals gather in the tranquil embrace of Cubbon Park, Bengaluru, for a unique mental health session called 'Sundays for Mental Health', organised by a Kodagu-based NGO Mind and Matter. As the gentle breeze sets the stage, participants attend the event not just to meet, but to connect. Through a variety of carefully curated games, activities, paintings, etc, the NGO assist the participants to understand areas of different mental health such as communication, empathy, inter-personal relationships and more. In case someone comes up to them with a serious problem, the NGO refers it to mental health professionals.

Venkatesh, a chartered accountant who attended the event on Sunday, said, "There's unmistakable warmth here. It helped me a lot. The session has given me a chance to look into my soul. It helped me understand myself much better."

Another participant, Somnath, said, "This is my second campaign with Mind and Matters, and I understood how to look at the same situation from a different perspective."

In a world where problems related to mental health often take a backseat, Mind and Matter stands as a beacon of hope, offering support to individuals in need. The NGO has stepped into the fray with free programmes which it organises in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Kodagu, and plans to expand to cities like Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai as well. It aims to break the stigma around mental health with a short yet moderate plan under expert guidance, a holistic approach and compassionate care.

Trustee and founder of Mind and Matter Deepika Appaiah said, "We work with schools, colleges, parents and teachers. Our initiative has impacted about 13,000 children and over 700 parents and teachers. Our organisation is run by volunteers, so we invite people to join us and provide them training from the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Nimhans, in Bengaluru. As of now, we have 150 volunteers." From housewives to working professionals, the numbers joining the initiative are only growing. Registered in 2021, Mind and Matter has collaborated with Nimhans and is witnessing a spike in enrolment.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME IN SCHOOLS IN MYSURU

Dr Aravind Raj, Department of Psychiatric Social Work of Nimhans, and one of the pioneers of the initiative, said, "Mental health professionals are often confined to hospitals, where stigma deters people from seeking help. It is one of the reasons to take mental health initiatives outside hospitals." He stressed the need for more awareness campaigns in society. Mental health includes different methods of handling situations: understanding one's potential, dealing with stress in a positive way, being productive and contributing to society. "Our motto is to promote all these among people, so their vulnerability to developing mental disorders comes down," he said.

According to several reports, it has been identified that rural residents have inadequate mental health knowledge, tied to entrenched stigma and low literacy. In urban areas, people are grappling with work stress, especially Bengaluru's techies. Dr Raj said Mind and Matter wants to penetrate that area and make them recognise the importance of mental well-being. "We also train Anganwadi workers and teachers and provide care in rural areas," he added.

SUNDAYS FOR HEALTH

What is Sundays for Mental Health?
The purpose of this initiative is to understand the mind & health and make a better connection within ourselves

Who can participate?
People can pre-register using the WhatsApp group. The chat window opens only a week in advance

How many can join: **20**

Timings: **8 am- 10.45 am**

Days: Every alternative Sunday

What happens here?
Different types of activities such as fun games, paintings, etc

ENROL ON WHATSAPP

1. As part of the annual mental health awareness campaign, participants paint the walls of The Wheel Cafe in Madikeri **2.** Participants paint a 900sqft canvas at Kodava Hockey Festival in Napoklu, Kodagu **3.** A group of youngsters chit-chat after the Sundays for Mental Health programme in Cubbon Park, in Bengaluru | EXPRESS

MENTAL ILLNESS AFFECTS 8% OF POPULATION

According to the 2015–2016 National Mental Health Survey (NMHS), conducted by Nimhans and considered one of the best benchmarks, 8 per cent of Karnataka's population, which is 1 out of 12 people, suffers from mental illnesses and requires care. Dr Raj and Appaiah say this is primarily because of a lack of awareness.

"The kind of transformation I have witnessed in people drives me to continue this work. Over time, I understood after attending the programmes we organise, that people feel it is okay to ask for help," she noted. "If the initiative had never worked, people wouldn't come back to us. More importantly, there is no monetary benefit involved, which means it has personally impacted me," Appaiah said, a smile on her face. "I believe my family is my biggest support, and thank my entire team for their contribution."

While the NGO is run for a noble cause, Appaiah says that sometimes, it is difficult to continue the initiative on such a large scale if there isn't enough financial support. Appaiah, who also runs a café in Coorg, said it provides support. "We don't go out to ask for donations. People who have worked with us donate money. The café is an extension of whatever we do here. However, now we are trying to collect funds from corporates or through CSR activities," she said. Dr Raj also stressed that resource management is important.

Absence of mental illness does not mean one is mentally healthy. I believe people should talk more about mental health, that's why I stepped in
– Dr Aravind Raj, Dept of Psychiatric Social Work, Nimhans

Our main motto is to sensitise people to one another. We are trying to build community mental health. I believe that all kinds of changes will happen in society if our minds are in harmony and balance
– Deepika Appaiah, founder, Mind and Matter

Now, AI to help prevent impersonation during exams

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a first-of-its-kind attempt, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) successfully deployed a mobile-based AI authentication system during a recruitment exam on Saturday to eliminate the possibility of fake candidates appearing for tests.

The technology, developed by KEA's engineering team, was tested during a four-day recruitment exam for vacant positions, including computer operators, in the Legislative Council. When candidates entered the exam hall, their photographs were captured via a mobile app and instantly verified against the images submitted during the application process. The system, connected in real-time to KEA's servers, immediately confirmed the authenticity of the candidates.

KEA Executive Director H Prasanna stated that the system effectively prevented impersonation and ensured only genuine candidates could enter the exam hall. On Saturday alone, 74 candidates appeared for the morning session and 267 in the afternoon. Following the system's success, KEA now plans to extend it to other exams.

For the first time, KEA also uploaded OMR answer sheets on its website immediately after the exam. This move aims to enhance transparency, allowing candidates and the public to access the sheets, leaving no room for malpractice or doubts, Prasanna added.

REVA University organises Abhinandan 2025

Bengaluru: To recognise students who secured placements in leading companies, REVA University organised 'Abhinandan 2025' on Saturday. The event, conducted by the Career Development Centre, highlighted this year's placement achievements, with students receiving 3,123 job offers from top firms. The highest salary package stood at Rs 40 lakh per annum, while the highest internship stipend was Rs 1 lakh per month. Over 400 companies, including 30 international recruiters, visited the campus. The university has also set up three Centres of Excellence to strengthen industry collaborations and enhance training opportunities for students. The event was attended by Manroop Singh from XPERI, Vinay Shivapur from TCS, and Mohammed Fahad from Microsoft as chief guests. Pro Chancellor Umesh S Raju, Vice Chancellor Dr Sanjay S Chitnis, and Rector Dr RW Alexander Jesudasan were also present.

2nd airport: AAI team to visit B'luru next month

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A TEAM of officials from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) will visit Bengaluru between April 7 and 9 for a feasibility study of three locations identified for the second international greenfield airport.

Minister for Industries and Infrastructure Development MB Patil told reporters on Saturday that Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC) has paid a fee of Rs 1.21 crore to the authority. Two locations on Kanakapura Road and one on Nelamangala-Kunigal Road have been identified for the airport project.

He said that his department wrote to the AAI on March 5, requesting it to inspect the locations identified for the proposed airport. The department has prepared all documents and obtained revenue maps of the locations identified, 10 years' weather reports, and maps from the Survey of India as per the directive of the AAI.

Stating that there is immense pressure on KIA, Patil said the condition that no second airport should be built within a radius of 150 km from KIA will end by 2033. Keeping this in mind, the process for the second airport has been started and if things go as planned, it could be ready for use by 2033, he added.

The minister said that a proposal for the airport near Sira in Tumakuru is not feasible. "If the proposed airport is built in Sira, it will be just like airports in Shivamogga and Vijayapura. To serve the people of Bengaluru, the airport must be close to the city. Only then will investors be interested in constructing the airport. Without this, the project will not be feasible," he said.

Patil said Baldota Group is planning to set up a large-scale steel manufacturing plant in Koppal at a cost of Rs 54,000 crore. Expressing apprehension over pollution by the proposed steel plant, a protest has been launched by the head of Gavimath. A study will be conducted by an independent agency and action will be taken based on its report.

3-yr-old girl dies as tree falls on two-wheeler

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A three-year-old girl died when a tree fell on her while she was riding a two-wheeler along with her father in the city on Saturday night. It was raining when the tree fell on them near Purva Park at Jeevanahalli in Pulikeshi Nagar police limits around 8.20 pm.

Raksha, who suffered head injuries, died while being treated at Bowring Hospital. Her father Shakthi escaped with minor injuries. Their relative said Raksha was first taken to a nearby hospital soon after the incident. But the doctors who examined her said chances of her survival were less. Raksha was then shifted to Bowring Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

It is learnt that gusty winds uprooted the roadside tree. Traffic was disrupted near Purva Park for some time. Shakthi and his daughter were returning home from their relative Murali's house in Jeevanahalli.

Raksha was the second daughter of Shakthi and Sathya. Her body was shifted to the mortuary of Bowring Hospital. Further investigations are on.

Rain gives respite from torrid heat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

PRE-monsoon showers in Bengaluru and most parts of the state gave people the much-needed relief from summer heat on Saturday.

The rainfall, however, also exposed the lack of preparedness of BBMP. Till 5.30 pm, the India Meteorological Department had recorded 0.7 mm of rainfall in Bengaluru city central, 38.6 mm at the Kempegowda International Airport and traces at HAL Airport.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC), most parts of Bengaluru North till Devanahalli recorded a moderate rainfall (up to 7 cm) till 7.30 pm. Bagalur recorded 58.5 mm, Betta Halsoor 55 mm, Marenahalli 52 mm, Sonnenahalli 67.5 mm, Sonappanahalli 52 mm, Gantiganahalli 51 mm, Vidyaranyapura 32 mm, KSNDMC head office campus 45.5 mm, Singanayakanahalli 36.5 mm, Jakkur 46.5 mm, BTM Layout 13 mm, Biddarahalli 30.5 mm, Doddagubbi 36.5 mm and Seegehalli 29.5 mm. Devanahalli's Boodigehalli recorded 46 mm rainfall, Nallur 64 mm and Gangavara Chowdappanahalli 69.5 mm.

The BBMP control room was flooded with complaints of tree and branch falls from many parts of the city, including Sanjay Nagar, Kempapura, Banashankari 2nd Stage, HSR Layout, Aramane Nagar and Dodda Bommasandra.

IMD officials said the rainfall is because of the trough running from north-interior Karnataka to south Tamil Nadu' trough/ wind discontinuity from south Chhattisgarh to south-interior Karnataka across Telangana and north-interior Karnataka and the trough in easterlies from Comorin area to south Tamil Nadu. IMD senior scientist CS Patil said rain has been forecast for Bengaluru for the next two days, while most parts of the state will experience showers for the next five days. Though the rain gave a temporary relief, the temperature will start going up again, he added.

Motorists navigate through the lashing rain on Dr Ambedkar Road on Saturday. IMD recorded 3.6 mm of rainfall in Bengaluru City till 8:30 pm | ALLEN EGENIUSE J

SHOWERS STAT
Rainfall recorded by IMD till **8.30 pm**
Bengaluru City - **3.6 mm**
HAL Airport - **1.9 mm**

Flooding of roads across city
The traffic police reported flooding in Bellandur, KR Puram, Silk Board and other areas. Traffic police were seen clearing clogged outlets to drain out rainwater.

Thunderstorm, rain force diversion of 20 flights

ENS @Bengaluru

SEVERE thunderstorms and lightning at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Saturday evening forced the diversion of 20 incoming flights, including two international ones, from Bengaluru to Chennai and Coimbatore. The weather conditions impacted the airport from 4 pm to 5.45 pm with a few flights operated on and off whenever the weather improved during this period.

A source of the airport operator, BIAL told TNIE, "A total of 20 flights, including two international ones, could not land at Bengaluru airport due to heavy rain. It included 12 IndiGo flights, 4 Air India Express and two each of Akasa Air and Air India. The flights were diverted to Chennai and Coimbatore airports."

Flights from Hyderabad, Mumbai, Shirdi, Durgapur, Port Blair, Ayodhya, Goa and Bagdogra were also diverted. "Ten departing flights were also delayed by 30 to 40 minutes," the source said.

IMD Director at Airport, CS Patil told TNIE, "The airport area received 4 cm of rainfall in the evening which is moderate. However, there were severe thunderstorms and heavy lightning. There were variable winds over the airfield too. The visibility at the airport dipped upto 600 metres at a point which is low."

A 19-year-old girl committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train in Mandya on Saturday. Suhana, a B.Com student from a private college in Mysuru and daughter of police constable Ansar Pasha, jumped in front of Chamundi Express near Bandigowda Layout in Mandya. She had left the house on her scooter on Friday night

Tea powder, spices face heat as FDA cracks down on adulteration

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

AFTER the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department (FDA) cracked down on usage of plastic sheets in idli and holige preparations, the department has been flooded with complaints against poor food quality. As a result, the FDA has launched statewide inspections targeting hotels, messes and bakeries.

FDA officials told TNIE that while the inspections have just begun, they have found adulterated spices being used in food preparations and also found substandard ingredients in items such as jaggery, oil, paneer, khoya and even tea powder.

Inspections against eateries, particularly messes near colleges and offices, have been stepped up after a recent food poisoning case in Mandya district, where two private school students died and others fell sick, a source from the FDA said.

The official stated that several items, including tea powder, were found to be adulterated, with low-grade tea and previously brewed tea leaves being dried and coloured with artificial dyes to restore their appearance. "Most shops do not mix brewed tea leaves with other waste but instead dry and reuse them," the official said.

Moreover, many food items are prepared using adulterated spices. Turmeric, chili powder, and coriander powder are among the most commonly adulterated due to their high demand and powdered form, making it easier to mix in impurities undetected, the department official said, adding that

turmeric is often mixed with metanil yellow, a synthetic dye, or lead chromate to enhance colour, both of which are harmful. Similarly, chili powder is adulterated with artificial colours like Sudan red, a known carcinogen.

The officer warned that regular consumption of adulterated foods can have serious health consequences over time. "Spices contaminated with harmful chemicals like metanil yellow, lead chromate, and Sudan red can lead to digestive issues, liver and kidney damage, and even cancer," the official mentioned, adding that prolonged exposure to such adulterants can cause neurological disorders, respiratory problems, and weakened organ function. In severe cases, they may lead to chronic illnesses, including gastrointestinal disorders and carcinogenic effects, he explained.

Justice Krishna Dixit, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Dr Preethi Reddy at the launch of Seniors First Programme in Apollo Hospital in Bengaluru

Seniors First programme introduced at Apollo Hospital

Bengaluru: To enhance healthcare services for senior citizens, Apollo Hospitals launched 'Seniors First,' one of its kind integrated geriatric care initiative. The programme is designed to provide elderly individuals with comprehensive healthcare, focusing on preventive wellness, structured recovery after major medical procedures, and continuous health monitoring. Seniors First aims to bring together multi-specialist teams, hospital-to-home transitions, and personalised health plans to ensure a connected and compassionate care ecosystem for the elderly. The initiative aims to bridge existing gaps in geriatric care, offering support tailored to the specific health challenges faced by older adults. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who inaugurated the initiative, welcomed the move, emphasising its role in making advanced and accessible healthcare available to senior citizens. "This is a vital step in ensuring that our elderly receive not only the best medical care but also the dignity and support they deserve," the minister said. The programme offers specialised services including personalised wellness plans, proactive health monitoring, rehabilitation support after major surgeries, emotional and caregiver assistance, and dietary guidance. It also provides a dedicated helpline, concierge services, priority consultations, and medical guidance, ensuring seniors and their caregivers have round-the-clock access to essential healthcare. Dr Madhu Sasidhar, President and CEO of Apollo Hospitals, stressed the need for specialised geriatric care in India, where over 140 million senior citizens often struggle with multiple chronic conditions, frequent hospitalisations, and complex medication regimens. He noted that Seniors First is designed to address these challenges by offering a sustainable and personalised model of care.

Dept: Cut use of sunflower oil in midday meals by 10%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka School Education Department issued a directive to reduce the use of sunflower oil in midday meals under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM Poshan) scheme by 10%. This decision follows a letter from the Union Ministry of Education, which cited rising concerns about obesity and heart disease among school-age children.

Under the revised guidelines, the amount of sunflower oil used in midday meals has been reduced to 5 grams per child for students in classes 1 to 5 and 7.5 grams per child for students in classes 6 to 10.

What prompted the government to take measures to promote healthier eating habits in schools was recent findings published in 'The Lancet' report, as per which the number of overweight children aged 5 to 19 in India rose from 0.4 million in 1990 to 12.5 million in 2022. The directive stresses the urgent need to create awareness among teachers, parents, students, and the community about the health risks associated with excessive oil consumption and the importance of reducing oil usage in school meals.

"Excessive consumption of cooking oil has been linked to obesity, heart disease, and digestive issues, making it essential to educate children about healthy dietary habits from an early age," the directive stated. The new guidelines emphasize that the PM Poshan scheme provides meals with a balanced combination of rice, wheat, cereals, pulses, and vegetables, enriched with double-fortified salt (DFS) and vitamin-rich edible oils. "Schools have also been encouraged to use vegetables grown in their nutrition gardens, allowing students to actively participate in gardening and develop a better understanding of nutritious food choices," the directive mentioned.

To ensure the effective implementation of this policy, schools have been instructed to take a series of steps. Kitchen staff must undergo mandatory training on the importance of reducing oil usage in cooking. Schools should collaborate with nutritionists from Home Science colleges to conduct workshops on low-oil cooking methods and make these techniques widely accessible. Additionally, quiz competitions on healthy eating habits will be organized at the school level, with prizes awarded to winners to encourage student participation.

Schools will also integrate regular exercise, yoga, and sports activities into their routines to promote a healthy lifestyle.

XPRESS FOCUS

KIIT-DU Inks MoU with Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, New Zealand

MoU Signing Between KIIT-DU & Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, New Zealand

- Aimed at creating new academic pathways and joint research initiatives.
- Signed in the presence of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon..

Significance of the Collaboration

- Strengthens India-New Zealand educational ties.
- Facilitates student and faculty exchanges.
- Focus on skill development, AI integration, and vocational education.
- Supports the creation of a future-ready workforce.
- Ina H. Krishnamurthi led the delegation to KIIT & KISS.
- Engaged in discussions with KIIT & KISS senior leadership.
- Acknowledged KIIT & KISS's contributions to education and social transformation.
- Strengthens global friendship and collaboration.
- Founder KIIT & KISS Dr. Achyuta Samanta emphasised the role of KIIT & KISS in global educational partnerships while reinforcing commitment to international cooperation and academic excellence.

KIIT-DU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, New Zealand, to provide students with new academic pathways and foster joint research initiatives.

The MoU was formalised in the presence of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. The agreement was led by Dr. Debraj Pradhan, Director General of International Relations at KIIT, with the participation of Gus Gilmore, Chief Executive of Te Pūkenga—New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, and Graham Rouse, Consul General & Trade Commissioner at New Zealand Trade & Enterprise.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in India-New Zealand educational relations, facilitating student and faculty exchanges while fostering joint research efforts. With India's growing emphasis on skill development, artificial intelligence integration, and vocational education, this alliance is expected to play a crucial role in shaping a future-ready workforce.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador of Indonesia to India and Bhutan Ina H. Krishnamurthi along with her delegation, visited KIIT & KISS and had an engaging discussion with the senior leadership team.

The delegation appreciated the vision and efforts of KIIT & KISS in the field of education and social transformation. The founder of KIIT and KISS, Dr. Achyuta Samanta said the visit will strengthen the spirit of global friendship and collaboration.

1 dead, 4 hurt as chariot collapses at Huskur fair

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

ONE person died, while four others sustained serious injuries after a 150-foot-tall chariot collapsed during the famous Huskur Jatre(fair) at the Madduramma Devi Temple Festival in Huskur on Saturday evening.

The incident occurred in the Anekal subdivision police limits on the outskirts of the city. The chariot reportedly fell due to heavy wind, and it had also started to drizzle at the time of the incident.

The chariot was pulled to the temple with the help of oxen and cows from the surrounding villages including Doddanagamangala and Rayasandra. Devotees of over 10 villages had gathered for the Huskur Madduramma temple fair.

The casualties would have been more if the chariot had fallen on the devotees. Fortunately, it fell on a roadside tree.

Huskur is also famous for Huskur Fruit Market off Hosur Main Road near Electronic City.

EXPRESS READ

Two attacked inside bar over old rivalry

Bengaluru: A brutal attack unfolded inside Spoorthy Deluxe Bar at Saraswathipura Main Road on Friday night, where a gang of three assaulted two men, Pawan and Vamsi Krishna with beer bottles. The attack occurred around 11:15pm after the victims allegedly made a phone call, threatening someone. The gang later stormed into the bar and launched the assault. Authorities suspect an old rivalry as the motive behind the attack.

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board

KIADB

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Residential Houses

Sl. No	House Details	No of Units	Plot size in mtr.	Builtup Area in Sq.mtr
1	HIG	37	12.19 x 18.29	99.86
2	MIG	20	9.14 x 15.25	78.95
3	LIG	50	9.14 x 12.19	52.20
Total		107		

Residential Sites

Sl. No	Site Details	No of Sites	Site Dimension in mtr.
1	EWS	44	6.10 x 9.14
2	LIG	182	9.14 x 12.19
3	MIG	64	9.14 x 15.25
4	HIG	11	12.19 x 18.29
5	Odd	3	15.60 x 15.70
Total		304	

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Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa has defended Speaker U T Khader's decision to suspend 18 BJP MLAs for six months. "I had never seen such irresponsible behaviour by MLAs on the floor of the House. The Speaker was right to take such action," he added.

Spl court issues warrant against Bidar DC in land-grab case

MARUTI BAVIDODDI @ Bidar

THE Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Special Courts, Bengaluru, has issued a warrant against the Bidar deputy commissioner for not submitting a report in the land-grab case against Aurad MLA Prabhu Chavan. The order has been issued through the Bidar district Superintendent of Police to execute the warrant along with a surety bond of Rs 1 lakh.

Case details

Deepak Patil Chandori, former president of Chandori gram panchayat in Aurad taluk, had filed a case in the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Special Courts, alleging that the MLA had created fake documents and encroached 3 acres and 19 guntas of government land located in survey number 102 of Kolara (B) village in Bidar taluk.

Along with Chavan, the Bidar District Magistrate (DC), Bidar Divisional Magistrate (AC), tahsildar, additional director of Land Records and the Bidar sub-registrar were also booked. The complaint alleged that the Bidar District Magistrate and tahsildar had cooperated with the encroachers and requested that legal action be taken against those who had encroached on the land.

The court had taken the statement of Chandori on October 5, 2024. It had ordered the District Magistrate to submit a report on the case by December 12, 2024. Later, it gave time till February 21, 2025, to submit the report and then again extended the deadline to March 13. But the district administration still did not submit the report. Therefore, the court ordered the bailable warrant.

"I filed the case to save government property and not for personal gain. Former deputy commissioner H R Mahadeva had issued an order that the land belonged to the government. However, the district administration did not take any action after that," Chanduri said.

RAJANNA'S SON BLAMES TOP MINISTER FOR SCANDAL, GIVES DIGI-EVIDENCE TO SIDDU

CM likely to put ball in Rahul's court

HONEYTRAP CASE

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah may put the ball in the court of Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, on the thorny issue of honeytrap attempt made on his confidante and Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna.

Meanwhile, Rajanna's son Rajendra, an MLC, called on Siddaramaiah at his official residence Cauvery on Saturday and held talks. He claimed that he presented certain digital evidence on the alleged attempts made against his father and him to honeytrap them. He told the CM that an influential minister, who he named, was behind the honeytrap episode, sources said.

"Does he not have wife and children? Why is he trying to honeytrap us," Rajendra said earlier in the day at a public meeting at the Madhugiri Assembly constituency, talking about the influential minister. Rajendra said he and his father will go by what the chief minister says on filing a complaint. Sources said Rajendra recently had a tiff with an aide of the minister over a sensitive issue.

Rajanna and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi, both aides of Siddaramaiah, are planning to meet Rahul in New Delhi soon. Rahul's man Friday and AICC General Secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal, a Siddaramaiah sympathiser, will facilitate the meeting, sources said. The two will give details of the conspiracy by the senior minister to honey trap own party leaders to snub them politically. But in turn, the two ministers will try to stop the leader from claiming the top post in the state, a Congress leader said.

The high command, through its own channels, has already collected information on honeytrapping and how BJP capitalised on it, and who within Congress are responsible for the scandal. The party top brass will weigh in its options before taking further action, he added.

Rajanna told reporters in Tumakuru that he will submit a written complaint to both Siddaramaiah and Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara either on Wednesday or Thursday. He also said like-minded ministers will discuss their next move on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting on Thursday.

WILL TAKE PLAINT TO HM: RAJANNA

Kolar: Cooperation Minister K N Rajanna said he will approach Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara with a formal complaint on the honey-trap attempt on him. "Such cases are happening neither for the first time not it will be the last. Such cases will be reported in future too," he told reporters here on Saturday. Rajanna said handing over the honey-trap case for CBI investigation is left to the chief minister and the home minister. Speaking on suspension of 18 BJP MLAs, he said the protest in the Assembly was pre-planned. The behaviour of the BJP legislators will be a black mark on the Karnataka legislature, he said. The minister said if he was the Speaker, he too would have suspended them.

'CD factory' behind honey trapping should be exposed, says Satish

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said there is a "CD factory" in the state that is involved in honey-trapping political leaders, and it needs to be exposed.

Responding to Minister K N Rajanna's statement that attempts were made to honey-trap him, Jarkiholi said an investigation would be done if the minister files a complaint. "There is still time to lodge a complaint against the attempts being made to honey-trap leaders. Only powerful leaders are often targeted in honey-trap cases," he said. He, however, didn't feel the need for a CBI investigation into the honey-trap cases. The police can handle them and identify those behind the conspiracy, he said.

Reacting to BJP MLA Munirathna's allegations against Deputy CM D K Shivakumar at a press conference in Belagavi on Saturday, Jarkiholi said there is no point in making allegations in such cases, but there is a need for a police investigation into it.

He said according to Rajanna, more than 40 leaders may have been honey-trapped, but the actual number could be much higher.

When asked about Shivakumar's remark that "If someone says 'Hi', why do you reply with 'Hello'?" Jarkiholi said nobody would be caught or trapped if they had the willpower and experience to tackle such situations. If someone is already alert, even if "Hi" is sent ten times, he won't respond with "Hello," he said.

On the ongoing Kannada-Marathi tussle in Belagavi, he said the Kannada-Marathi linguistic conflict that existed 30 years ago is no longer there. The government should control such conflicts through policies and programmes, he added.

To a question on the demand of Kannada organisations to ban the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES), he said banning MES would not help resolve the issue as new organisations could emerge under different names and continue their activities.

On the Maharashtra government's implementation of its schemes in border areas of Karnataka, the minister said these schemes were not necessarily beneficial to the Marathi-speaking population in Karnataka. While Maharashtra may announce schemes, not everyone would benefit from them. In contrast, the Karnataka government's schemes reached all linguistic groups.

The state has been implementing the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) projects at regular intervals in border regions. Previously, official documents were available in different languages, but now they are being provided in Kannada, he added.

Met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and gave all the details. After lodging a complaint with the DGP of the state, either on Tuesday or Wednesday, we will go to Delhi (to meet high command leaders)

Rajendra, MLC and son of Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna

This govt is embroiled in sex scandals... It is not in a position to give good governance. They can't represent the 6.5 crore people of the state. The chief minister has to apologise to the people and step down

Govind Karjol, Chitradurga MP

POLITICS IN THE SHADOW OF HONEY-TRAPS

Sleazy videos, pen drives and CDs are not new to Karnataka politics. However, if the government gets to the bottom of the revelations made on the floor of the assembly by a senior minister in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah cabinet, it could eclipse all the previous scandals and change how people perceive politics and politicians.

Earlier this week, Minister for Cooperation KN Rajanna, a close confidante of the chief minister, dropped a bombshell when he claimed that 48 politicians — including central leaders — were honey-trapped, and attempts were made to target him.

Although the minister, known for speaking bluntly, did not name anyone, many in the political circles, including those in the government, believe that his remarks exposed the power struggle within Congress. It opened a can of worms for Congress and its government in the state. The Opposition BJP, too, has alleged involvement of some Congress leaders.

It is hard to grasp that a senior minister could make such a statement in the state assembly on the issue that could negatively impact the government's image, without the knowledge of the chief minister.

Take a look at the sequence of events. Buzz over the honey-trap attempts targeting a minister was doing the rounds for a few days. A day before the budget session ended on Friday, a BJP MLA raised the issue, and took the minister's name, prompting Rajanna to issue the statement. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara immediately assured a high-level probe after Rajanna submitted a written complaint. The CM reiterated the home minister's remarks.

But should the government wait for a complaint from the minister? Or, should it limit the scope of the probe based on such a complaint? The state government should instead act on the minister's statement made on the floor of the assembly. The government's failure to act swiftly and decisively on such issues could further erode public trust in politicians and the system.

The government needs to get to the bottom of the allegations without giving the impression that it is procrastinating. But that's easier said than done. The honey-trap issue has landed the Siddaramaiah government on a minefield and negotiating its way out is fraught with uncertainties.

The development also showed the state intelligence in a poor light. If targeting of state and national leaders can go unnoticed, or without any action, it speaks volumes about the system. The minister even mentioned that people are talking about Karnataka becoming a CD and pendrive factory. Were those at the helm of affairs alerted about it before it reached such a dire state?

Senior Congress leader from Belagavi and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi's remark that not 40, but 400 leaders, cutting across party lines, were honey-trapped, shows the gravity of the situation that the government needs to deal with. Like Rajanna, his colleague Jarkiholi, too, emphasised the need to put an end to such practices. Interestingly, both the ministers are from the Siddaramaiah camp.

As none in the government contested the minister's remarks, the only option is to order a probe.

The development gave the BJP enough ammo to target the government and demand the CM's resignation. The party is demanding a judicial probe or a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigation.

This came at a time when the BJP state unit was affected by internal issues with some senior leaders openly speaking against the party's state leadership. Although many senior BJP leaders articulated their stand against several issues, including the Siddaramaiah government's move to give reservations to Muslims in government contracts, it looked as though the party lacked a coordinated approach to take on the government and drive home its point.

Under such circumstances, the BJP seemed to have decided to go the whole hog in the honey-trap issue which came up at the fag end of the budget session. Demanding action against those involved in the honey-trap, BJP lawmakers created a ruckus in the assembly. Eighteen BJP MLAs were suspended for six months for obstructing the Speaker from conducting the House proceedings. The BJP has condemned the Speaker's decision.

While images of suspended BJP lawmakers being physically carried out of the assembly by marshals will remain etched in public memory, the Siddaramaiah government must act fast to restore public faith in the political system, before its image takes any further beating.

BJP urges Speaker to withdraw suspension

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

SENIOR BJP leaders, including party state president BY Vijayendra, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka and MLA V Sunil Kumar, urged Assembly Speaker UT Khader to withdraw the order suspending 18 MLAs for six months.

Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, Vijayendra termed the Speaker's decision as "illegal, unconstitutional, unilateral," and taken "arbitrarily". The Speaker not only insulted the legislators but also the people of their constituencies, he said.

He said the suspended legislators have been barred from entering the Assembly lobby or hall. "Are they terrorists or Naxalites?" Vijayendra asked. He also objected to the Speaker's decision of barring the MLAs from attending the standing committee meetings.

Ashoka said the BJP MLAs were fighting to protect the respect and honour of the Assembly, but the Speaker "behaved like Hitler". "I spoke to the Speaker today morning and informed him that his decision will not bring respect to the Assembly," he said. For the first time, the members were suspended for six months, he said. "Do the Speaker and Congress have any understanding?" he said.

The BJP leader said they will firmly stand with the suspended MLAs and not enter the Assembly and will decide soon on attending the committee meetings. "We will wait for the Speaker's decision till April 1 or 2, and after that, decide on the future course of action," he said.

The BJP said the government is giving four per cent reservation to Muslims by snatching it from Hindus. In places like Mangaluru, Muslims already get 50% of contracts and now it will increase to 75 %, it said.

The BJP leaders said they will continue to fight against the reservation to Muslims in government contracts, both inside and outside the House.

WILL REDUCE SUSPENSION PERIOD OF 18 BJP MLAs IF REQUESTED, SAYS KHADER

Bengaluru: Assembly Speaker UT Khader on Saturday said if the 18 BJP MLAs submit a request, he will consider reducing their six-month suspension. Khader suspended the MLAs from the House on Friday for showing disrespect to his chair by hurling torn papers at him, besides climbing on his chair and obstructing him from discharging his duties. He acted on Rule 348 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. Addressing a press conference here, Khader defended his action, saying he suspended the MLAs because of their unruly behaviour in the Assembly and for disrespecting the Speaker's chair. "The decision was taken when the incident took place and not under any pressure from the government. We have done that so that they rectify their mistakes. They do not feel they have done something wrong. Shouldn't they have realised their mistake? Such behaviour should be corrected. The suspension is an attempt to teach them discipline," he said. He took strong exception to the MLAs tearing papers, including Bills listed for tabling. "Is it right to disrupt the finance Bill? What would have happened if they had stopped making noise? This is not something I alone should think about. We should work to bring respect to the Constitution," he said. **ENS**

A Kannada activist detained by the police during the Karnataka bandh in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Roses given to motorists in Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE bandh did not affect the general public. The police denied permission for rallies and processions in the city. It was business as usual in the city.

Vatal Nagaraj, who also leads Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha, claimed that Saturday's bandh was successful in Bengaluru despite attempts by the city police to thwart the efforts of various Kannada organisations from going ahead with it.

City buses, cabs and autorickshaws operated as usual. Malls, hotels and other business establishments remained open. Security was tightened at Majestic, Mysuru Bank Circle, Town Hall and KR Puram in Bengaluru and in some sensitive places in the state.

"No untoward incident was reported from any part of the city. Those trying to organise protests were taken to Freedom Park," B Dayananada, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, said.

Vatal Nagaraj and other activists, including Sa Ra Govindu, went to Town Hall to take out a procession. However, the police detained Vatal Nagaraj.

Members of Karnataka Sangatanegala Samithi and Karunada Karmikara Sene, who did not support the bandh call, distributed roses to motorists near Mysore Bank Circle.

3 ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

In Bengaluru, three Kannada activists were arrested for stopping a BMTC bus and spraying anti-government slogans on the front wind shield of the vehicle.

EXPRESS READ

Min says shops must buy back used plastic bottles

Bengaluru: Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre on Saturday directed department officials to ensure stringent rules to make it mandatory for companies and sellers to buy back empty plastic bottles. He said shops should ensure they buy them back from consumers at a minimum price. He directed the department's additional chief secretary to formulate the rules. He said it is also the responsibility of the companies selling the bottles to ensure that they are bought back and scientifically disposed of following all environment rules. This was needed to stop the plastic bottle menace in the state, he added. **ENS**

RSS: Happy with Centre's efforts to protect minorities in B'desh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

JOINT-general secretary of RSS Arun Kumar said on Saturday that protection of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh is the responsibility of India.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the three-day RSS convention, Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), here, Kumar said RSS is satisfied with what the BJP government has done so far for protection of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh. A lot more needs to be done if atrocities on minorities continue in that country.

There has been a decline in the population of Hindus in Bangladesh from 22% in 1951 to 7.95% now. India did not break or disrespect the peace treaties with other countries, but Bangladesh is not honouring them. The protection of Hindus in Bangladesh is our (India's) responsibility. They should live in peace and prosper. The steps taken by India so far are commendable -- sending a team and an elected representative to Bangladesh and raising the issue at international forums, he said.

At the convention, a resolution expressing solidarity with the Hindu society of Bangladesh was passed on Saturday. Another resolution detailing the works to be done by RSS in future will be passed, he said.

Kumar said, "Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh cannot be ignored and if something major happens in future, we will decide what has to be done." "The ABPS urges the government of Bharat to make all possible efforts to ensure the protection, dignity and well-being of Hindu community in Bangladesh along with engaging the Government of Bangladesh in continuous and meaningful dialogue (sic)," the resolution stated.

'RSS now working with premier institutions'

Arun Kumar said of the total strength of RSS, around 60 lakh members are active and around eight lakh have been entrusted with various responsibilities. The aim is to make all (one crore) of them active. We are now working with premier institutions such as AIIMS, IITs and other research organisations. Kumar said a list of two lakh leaders and influencers, who also work as volunteers of RSS, has been prepared. RSS is in touch with 1.5 lakh such members in the last one year. Special attention is being paid to the involvement of women, he added.

A 35-year-old man was arrested for allegedly posting defamatory content against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and national political leaders on social media. The accused has been identified as S Manikandan (35) of Tiruchendur Yanai Salai

'POPULATION CANNOT BE SOLE CRITERIA FOR DELIMITATION'

Exercise targets states where people have done well in population control, says Patnaik

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhubaneswar

BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Saturday voiced his concerns over population being made the sole criteria for delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies, and called upon the Union government to clear all doubts on the exercise through thorough discussions with all parties.

Even as he had deputed two senior party leaders Sanjay Das Burma and Amar Patnaik to attend the joint action committee (JAC) meeting convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin in Chennai, Naveen chose to take part in it virtually from Bhubaneswar.

Addressing the JAC, Patnaik said the meeting was important to uphold democracy, particularly in context of representation and rights of people living in states that have done very well in controlling and stabilising population. He asserted that his party will take all possible measures to protect the interests of the people of Odisha.

Emphasising that population control is an important national agenda that directly contributes to the country's development, the former chief minister said states also took their own initiatives and successfully implemented the national agenda. "States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, West Bengal, Punjab and Odisha have been very successful in population control. Had these states not achieved what they did in stabilising population, India would have had a population explosion today derailing our developmental progress. It will be unfair to these states if delimitation is based only on population figures," Patnaik said.

He said states like Odisha who have made significant strides in population control after years of persistent efforts should not be penalised for performing well on a national priority. "If projected population figures of 2026 are taken, we will end up losing seats in the Lok Sabha and the state Assembly. Biju Janata Dal will do everything to protect the interests of the people of Odisha," he said.

"I suggest the Union government take up a detailed discussion with all the parties so as to remove any doubts on this very important issue that has far reaching implications for our democracy," Patnaik said and thanked Stalin for organising the meeting.

> *We won't accept population-based delimitation as states like UP, Rajasthan, Bihar, and MP will then dominate rest of the country. We cannot accept it any cost*
>
> Telangana CM Revanth Reddy

> *Delimitation based only on population will be unfair to the states that have worked hard to reduce their population growth rates in line with national priorities*
>
> BJD president Naveen Patnaik

TG CM proposes next meet in Hyd, seeks 33% hike in seats

ENS @Hyderabad

ACCUSING the BJP-led Union government of enforcing a 'demographic penalty' through delimitation, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy asserted that the South would not accept a population-based or pro rata formula based delimitation. He demanded that the South's representation in the Lok Sabha be increased by 33% from the current 24% if delimitation is inevitable, warning that anything less would reduce the region to a "passive audience" in India's political landscape.

"If BJP conducts delimitation based on population, South India will lose political voice. Additionally, he proposed that Hyderabad will host the next JAC meeting on delimitation, tentatively scheduled for mid-April. He outlined alternatives for fair delimitation, "Narendra Modi can follow Vajpayee's method — no increase in Lok Sabha seats for 25 years. Conduct delimitation within states, adjusting boundaries based on the latest census."

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

People from different communities participate in the iftar feast hosted by committee of Thavandi Sree Bhagavati Temple as part of the Thira Maholsavam on Saturday at Kappad in Kozhikode | E GOKUL

Realtor stabbed to death inside his SUV

ENS@ Bengaluru

A 37-year-old realtor, who was close to a Congress MLA from a constituency in Ramanagara district, was stabbed to death inside his SUV at Bilijaji village at BGS Layout around 5.30 pm on Saturday.

The victim, Lokanath Singh, was from Kuduru in Magadi. The attackers stabbed him in the neck while talking to him in his SUV, the police said. This indicates that the attackers were known to Singh. His gunman is missing after the incident. After stabbing Singh, the attackers ran out of the SUV and escaped in an autorickshaw that was parked some 100 metre away, the police said.

Singh was supposed to get married in a couple of days. The exact reasons behind the murder is yet to be ascertained.

It is to reduce number of MPs from South: Pinarayi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

TERMING the Union government's delimitation move politically motivated to help the BJP, Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** has warned that the proposed delimitation could drastically reduce the representation of southern states in Parliament, punishing them for successfully implementing population control policies.

Speaking at the Joint Action Committee (JAC) meeting in Chennai on Saturday, he said the delimitation process was a 'Sword of Damocles' hanging over states, which is being pushed forward without consultation. "The Union government's actions, from fiscal policies to language policies to cultural policies and now even the fixation of representation, are destabilising India's federal system and democratic framework. This cannot be allowed to pass," he said. Pinarayi stressed that federalism was not a privilege granted by the Union but a constitutional right of the states. "Our collective resistance is not just about seats. It is a fight to preserve India's soul as a diverse and inclusive democracy," he said. He alleged that the BJP government at the Centre was moving ahead with delimitation without consultation, driven by political motives rather than democratic principles.

Tur dal prices crash to two-year low

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THIS Obattu during Ugadi is set to get sweeter. Tur dal prices, which have been steadily falling since October last year, have touched a historic low this week. Good quality dal has gone down by 57% to 61% (depending on the brand) in the wholesale market when compared to the price six months ago, say traders. The price of Channa dal too has slid to some extent.

The excellent rains last year when the sowing was done for these crops has resulted in a bountiful yield, say those in the profession. Retailers will have to pass on the benefit to the consumer due to the market dynamics, they add.

Sanjay Bhasin, proprietor of Suraj Dev Traders at APMC market in Yeswanthpur, one of the biggest and oldest Tur dal

dealers in the State, told *TNIE*, "We are selling good quality Tur presently from Rs 101 for a normal brand to Rs 122 for a top tier brand (like Shivling). We used to sell them earlier from Rs 175 to Rs 200. It is the lowest price since 2023." The other big plus is that the prices are presently on par with the dal imported from African nations like Mozambique and Zimbabwe or Mynamar which were in demand earlier as they were cheaper than that in India.

Kalaburagi and Raichur in Karnataka, Latur, Akola and Sholapur in Maharashtra, Vasad in Gujarat as well as Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are major Tur dal processing centres in the country, he said. "Due to the good rains, farmers sowed more of the dal last year and they are reaping its benefits now," he added. Asked how quickly the benefit would be passed to customers by retailers, Bhasin said, "Even if we wholesalers suffer a loss, we do it immediately. Retailers will do it a little slower but they will have to do it."

Past president of FKCCI and prominent Tur dal merchant, Ramesh Chandra Lahoti said, "Channa dal, a vital ingredient used in cooking delicacies, was selling for Rs 100 to 110 in November and December last year. Today, we are selling it Rs 72 to Rs 85 in Bengaluru. This along with the Tur dal prices slash is an Ugadi gift for all."

Sport, Youth & Cultural Activities Department
Government of Gujarat

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT

Shri Krishna and Devi Rukmini's Marriage
Celebrating a Cross-Cultural Heritage!

MADHAVPUR FAIR 2025

6 to 10 April, 2025

Madhavpur Ghed in Porbandar is renowned as the sacred site of the wedding of Shri Krishna and Devi Rukmini. Even today, from Chaitra Sud Navami to Chaitra Sud Teras, this divine union is commemorated through a grand festival. Celebrating the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this fair highlights the deep cultural connections between Eastern and Western India through a grand showcase of shared heritage.

Key Attractions

- Largest fusion dance performance featuring the Northeastern states and Gujarat, showcasing the rich heritage of a unified India.
- Cultural performances by 1,600 artists from the Northeastern states and Gujarat
- Stalls of handicrafts and cuisines from Northeastern states
- Sand sculpture presentation and sports activities

6 to 10 April, 2025 5:00 PM Madhavpur Ghed, District Porbandar, Gujarat

Celebrating the Spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'

www.gujarattourism.com
Toll Free Number 1800 203 1111

Scan QR for more information

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

e-Tender Notice No.DRM/Works/SC/13-28/2025/OT, Dt:20.03.2025

PUB/C089

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to 14.00 hours on dt: 17.04.2025

S.No.: 01 **e-Tender No.:** 13_CO_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** Maintenance of Lawns and Gardens at Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Sanchalan Bhawan and DRM camp office (24 Months). **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 54,12,558/- **EMD (₹):** 1,08,300/- **Completion period in Months:** 24 **Maintenance period in Months:** Nil

S.No.: 02 **e-Tender No.:** 14_CO_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** SW 1) BPQ-KZJ section: Provision of safety fencing / Boundary wall of along the Track for speed 130 KMPH and above by NHAI anti crash barrier / W beam steel fencing for 60 KMs fencing length under Sr.DEN/North/SC section. SW 2) KZJ-KI section: Provision of safety fencing / Boundary wall of along the Track for speed 130KMPH and above by NHAI anti crash barrier / W beam steel fencing for 55 KMs fencing length under Sr.DEN/South/SC section. SW 3) SC-KZJ section: Provision of safety fencing / Boundary wall of along the Track for speed 130 KMPH and above by NHAI anti crash barrier / W beam steel fencing for 35 KMs fencing length under DEN/Central/SC section. (Two packet system). **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 59,21,23,065/- **EMD (₹):** 31,10,700/- **Completion period in Months:** 09 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 03 **e-Tender No.:** 15_CR_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** SC-KZJ section: KZJ - Construction of new type design RPF Post office building including Lockup, toilets etc. at Kazipet. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 2,28,32,122/- **EMD (₹):** 2,64,200/- **Completion period in Months:** 09 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 04 **e-Tender No.:** 16_N_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** RDM - Construction of new type design RPF Post office building including Lockup, toilets at Ramagundam. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 2,29,61,226/- **EMD (₹):** 2,64,800/- **Completion period in Months:** 09 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 05 **e-Tender No.:** 17_N_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** BPQ-KZJ Section: Provision of safety Fencing / Boundary Wall of along the Track for speed 130 kmph and above using Fixed Knot fencing with High Tensile Steel Wire coated with Bezinal 2K for 15 Km. fencing length (Phase-I). **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 3,89,78,646/- **EMD (₹):** 3,44,900/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 45(days)

S.No.: 06 **e-Tender No.:** 18_N_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** Supply of Potable drinking water under ADEN/BPA Sub-Division. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 18,97,147/- **EMD (₹):** 38,000/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** Nil

S.No.: 07 **e-Tender No.:** 119_N_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** SW 1) BPQ-KZJ Section: Provision of Boundary wall along the Track for speed 130 Kmph and above for 34.93 Km boundary length at various stations under Sr. DEN/North/SC (Phase-II). SW 2) BPQ-KZJ Section: Provision of Safety Fencing / Boundary Wall of along the Track for speed 130 Kmph using Precast RCC Panels Inverted 'T' elements for 15 Km fencing length (Phase-I). (Two packet system). **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 47,15,41,632/- **EMD (₹):** 25,07,800/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 08 **e-Tender No.:** 20_W_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** WADI-SC & VKB-PRLI Sections: Widening / repair of Cess, Earth filling up of low lying areas near toe of bank & Earth work in between running lines involving crossing of track, Providing precast factory made (wet cast) / insitu longitudinal central drain between (UP & DN lines) & Cross drains with horizontal boring (trenchless technology) through the Railway formation at a required depth to the required slope etc. in SSE/P.Way/SEM & TDU sections under ADEN /TDU & SSE/P.Way/VKB & ZB sections under ADEN/VKB Sub division at various locations. (Two packet system). **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 50,01,53,258/- **EMD (₹):** 26,50,800/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 09 **e-Tender No.:** 21_W_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** VKB – Construction of new type design RPF Post office building at Vikarabad. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 2,28,89,000/- **EMD (₹):** 2,64,500/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 10 **e-Tender No.:** 22_W_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** WADI-SC Section: Widening / repair of Cess, Earth filling up of low lying areas near toe of bank & Earth work in between running lines involving crossing of track, Providing Precast factory made (wet cast) / insitu longitudinal central drain between (UP & DN lines) & Cross drains with horizontal boring (trenchless technology) through the railway formation at a required depth to the required slope etc. In SSE/P.Way/LPI section under ADEN/VKB Sub division at various locations as per Annexure. (Two packet system). **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 11,84,96,340/- **EMD (₹):** 7,42,500/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 11 **e-Tender No.:** 23_BRS_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** SW 1) Conventional painting of bridges and structures in SSE / Br / South / KZJ under ADEN / Bridges / SC jurisdiction during the year of 2024-25 (List of structures enclosed at Annexure- A). SW 2) Conventional painting of bridges and structures in SSE / Br / North / KZJ under ADEN / Birdges / SC jurisdiction during the year of 2024 -25 (List structures enclosed at Annexure-B). **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 1,30,06,949/- **EMD (₹):** 2,15,100/- **Completion period in Months:** 09 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 12 **e-Tender No.:** 24_NW_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** SW 1) Bidar - Construction of new type design office building including lockup, toilets at Bidar RPF post. SW 2) Parli Vaijanath – Construction of new type design office building including lockup, toilets at Parli RPF post. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 4,56,95,538/- **EMD (₹):** 3,78,500/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 13 **e-Tender No.:** 25_NW_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** KHNP-KLBG Section: Strengthening of tunnel walls at trolley refugees in tunnel and construction of side drains at tunel approaches. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 1,54,74,618/- **EMD (₹):** 2,27,400/- **Completion period in Months:** 09 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.: 14 **e-Tender No.:** 26_NW_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** VKB-PRLI Section: Widening / repairs to cess, filling up low lying areas near toe of bank at various locations under SSE/P.Way/BIDR and SSE/P.Way/UDGR sections. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 5,49,44,245/- **EMD (₹):** 4,24,800/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 12

S.No.: 15 **e-Tender No.:** 27_NW_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** VKB - PRLI Seciton: Widening / repairs to cess, filling up low lying areas near toe of bank at various locations under SSE/P.Way/UDGR and SSE/P.Way/PRLI section. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 6,88,30,385/- **EMD (₹):** 4,94,200/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Maintenance period in Months:** 12

S.No.: 16 **e-Tender No.:** 28_S_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** Warangal - Construction of new type design RPF Post office building including Lockup, Toilets etc. at Warangal. **Approx. Tender Value in (₹):** 2,24,93,007/- **EMD (₹):** 2,62,500/- **Completion period in Months:** 10 **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

1. Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered.
2. All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments / BG only.
3. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.
4. All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer.

Sr.DEN/Co-ord/ Secunderabad

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is informed that, **R Nagaraja Rao,** R/at: No.550, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Gottigere, Bangalore 560083, he has lost original **HOUSE DOCUMENT No. 8283-84 and 1481-82**, A Complaint is lodged in Bangalore City Police on dated **21.03.2025 Lost Report No.1532226/2025,** Finders may return the same to the above said Police Station or contact at the below Contact No.7483316239.

TENDER NOTICE NO: 11/2025 Dt.21.03.2025. SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice

PUB/C088

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website **www.ireps.gov.in** And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On **www.ireps.gov.in**."

Tender No.	Brief Description
77251252	Petroleum Hydrocarbon Solvent
38251237	Shank Wear Plate For CBC
38251007	22.22MM Dia Lock Bolt With Collar
38251008	22.22MM Dia Lock Bolt With Collar
38252063	Bogie Centre Pivot Bottom
29245002A	IGBT Based 3 Phase Drive
25254824	Finger Contract and Flexible shunt
LY245606	Sofa Complete Cushioned 3-Seater
33251656	Must Change Kit
33251641	Must Change Kit
29251219	Secondary Spring for 3 phase locos
33251514	Higher Capacity Air Spring Assembly
LH255472	Cylindrical Roller Bearing NU322
LH255474	Cylindrical Roller Bearing NJ318
52245035	Supply, Installation, Configuration
54245009A	Supply, Installation, Configuration
6025PT004	Procurement of 1 in 12 and 1 in 8.5
30253442	Head Stock Assembly
33251652	Must Change Kit

Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening: SL.No.01&02 on dt.03.04.2025.SL.No. 03 to 05 on dt.07.04.2025. SL.No 06 on dt.08.04.2025 SL.No .07 &08 on dt 09.04.2025.SL No.09 & 10 on dt 10.04.2025. SL.No.11 to 14 on dt 11.04.2025. SL.No.15 &16on dt 14.04.2025 SL.No.17 on dt 15.04.2025. SL.No.18 on dt 21.04.2025 SL.No.19 on dt 24.04.2025.

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having **Value Above Rs.50 Lakhs.**

For Details, Please Visit Railway Website Above.

A0365 **Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client **Mr.Koteswara Rao Chebrolu** has negotiated for purchase of below mentioned property from its owners **(a) Mr. Balan S/o. Chinnaiyan, (b) Mr. Murugesan Perumal S/o. Perumal, (c) Mr.V. Soundarajan S/o. Vishnuraj, (d) Mr. Mohanraj Nadarajan S/o. Nadarajan all are residents of Salem, Tamil Nadu and (e) Mr. B. Keshavan S/o. Bodi Reddy Resident of Bengaluru.**

Any person/s, banks / financial Sectors / individual / authorities, Companies, Institutions etc., having any claim/s, right, share or interest over the property shall file his / her /their/its objections in writing along with original documents with the undersigned within **07 DAYS** from the date of this publication.

Any objections on and after **07 days**, shall not be entertained and my client shall proceed with the transactions presuming that there are no claim/s of anyone whatsoever over the same.

SCHEDULE

Site No.2 carved out of converted land in Sy. No. 10/2 of **NYANAPPANAHALLI VILLAGE, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk,** vide Conversion order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District bearing No. ALN(SB) 10/2011-12 dated: 18/06/2011, now comes under the limits of BBMP, Ward No.193 (Arekere), measuring East to West: **54.7 feet** and North to South: **28.4 feet** and the layout named as **"GRAND AKASHYA"** and bounded on:

East by : Road,
West by : Site No.07,
North by : Site No.01,
South by : Site No.03.

(A.N. Krishna), Advocate,
7, 2nd Floor, B.R. Ramu Building,
Brugual Mutt Cross Road, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru-560004.
Bengaluru Date : 23-03-2025

(Govt of Karnataka)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D DIVISION SEDAM

No. EE/PWD/Dvn/Sed/TS-1/2024-25/3131 Date : 20-03-2025

-:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::-

1) Details of Works : 1. Total no of work 03 in under chitapur Indent No's are : **18882, 18741, 19804,** 2. Total no of work 03 in under sedam Indent No's are : **19815, 20702, 19982,** 3. Total no of work 03 in under chitapur Indent No's are : **18624, 20459, 20461,** 2) Head of Account: **Under K.K.R.DB, 5054 Appendix-E 3054 Bridge maintenance For the year 2024-25.** 3) Amount Put to Tender: **Lowest Estimate Cost Rs. 13.00 Lakhs, Highest Estimate Cost Rs. 800.00 Lakhs,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor: Class-III contractor & Above 5) Pre-Bid Meeting Date: **27-03-2025, Morning 11:30 Hrs,** 6) Date & time for Tender Queries of tenders: **29-03-2025 - 17:30:00 Hrs,** 7) Tender Form Fee & EMD Amount: Tender processing fee & EMD As per e-portal, 8) Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **03-04-2025 - 16:00:00 Hrs,** 9) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **04-04-2025 - 16:30:00 Hrs,** 10) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid : **07-04-2025 - 16:30:00 Hrs,** 11) Communication Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam, 12) Internet Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, 13) If any changes for Cancelation: Any Changes and cancelations are done in **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Note: 1) The undersigned has to power to postponement/rejecting the tenders 2) If any changes are there in upcoming days These Tenders are not published in tender bulletin it should be read in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1135/KSMC&A/2024-25

IDBI BANK

CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838

Mission Road Branch: Retail Recovery, No. 58, 2nd Floor, IDBI House, Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027. Ph: 080-61451233/241
Email: recovery.bangalore@idbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE [Under Rule 8(1)]

Whereas, The Undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **IDBI Bank** Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers/ Mortgagors / Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantors and the public in general, that the undersigned has **taken possession of the property** described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of Said Act read with rules 8 & 9 of the said rules on mentioned dates.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **IDBI Bank** for an below mentioned amount and interest thereon.

Loan A/c No. : HL A/c No: 0202675100156585
1. Name & Address of the Borrower & Gaurantor : Shri. B.K. Suresh and Shri Rajagopal .B.K
Demand Notice Date : 31.12.2024 **Possession Notice Date : 18.03.2025**
Outstanding Amount : Rs. 3,02,70,463/- (Rupees Three Crore Two Lakh Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Three Only) as on 10-10-2024 + Applicable interest and charges thereon less deposits made further.
Schedule of the Property : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site/Municipal No. 1246, having PID No. 39-117-1246, in the layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority, situated at 2nd Phase, 1st Stage, Chandra Layout, Gangondanahalli, Bangalore, now comes under the purview of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No. 128, Bangalore, measuring East to West : 17.90 Meters, North to South : 12.19 Meters, along with 12 squares of R.C.C. Roofed, Granite flooring house built thereon the **bounded on : East by :** Site No. 1257, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Site No. 1245, **South by :** Site No. 1247, together with all and singular the structure and erections theron, both present and future.

Loan A/c No. : HL A/c No: 0694675100023320, HL A/c No: 1620675100006750
2. Name & Address of the Borrower & Gaurantor : Shri. Arun Kumar Madhugiri Raja and Smt. Madhvi V Kattimani
Demand Notice Date : 31.12.2024 **Possession Notice Date : 21.03.2025**
Outstanding Amount : Rs. 99,23,580.00 (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Only), as on 10-10-2024 + Applicable interest and charges thereon less deposits made further
Schedule of the Property : Schedule 'A' Property : All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing vacant Site No.71, in Rajanukunte Village Panchayath Raj Khatha No. 71/2019/71, Property No. 150200200600420182 formed out of converted Old Survey No. 17/2, New Survey No. 17, measuring an extent of 2 Acre 02 Guntas, vide conversion Order Vide official memorandum Order No. ALN.(NAH)SR/41/2016-17, Dated:04-12-2018, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Situated at SRIRAMANA HALLI Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Previously Bangalore North Taluk, Presently Yelahanka Taluk, approved by DODDABALLAPURA PLANNING AUTHORITY (DPA) to form a residential layout in the above said land vide Order No. DPA/TP/LAO/18/2018-19, Dated 27-08-2019 and **bounded as follows : East By :** Site No. 65, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Site No. 72, **South by :** Site No. 70, measuring East to West:15.24 Mtrs, north to South: 9.14 Mtrs, in all measuring:139.35 Sq.Mtrs. or 1,500 Sft, together with all and singular the structure and erections thereon, both present and future.

Date : 21.03.2025
Place : Bengaluru.
Sd/- Authorised Officer IDBI Bank

STATE BANK OF INDIA

JP NAGAR BRANCH (07117)
No. 1104, 24th Main Road, JP Nagar, 1st Phase
BANGALORE - 560078

LOCKER BREAK OPEN

This is the information of our valued patrons who have taken locker on rent at **State Bank of India, JP Nagar Branch, Bangalore** and have committed breach of the agreement. The notices sent as per **RBI Bank** guidelines to the hirers at their recorded address have been returned undelivered stating either persons/ addresses not found or left. Efforts to contact the locker holders in person at their present at their recorded address was in vain and their present whereabouts could not be ascertained. Thus having no alternative, the notice is given to all the persons named below for contacting branch and to clear the dues of the Bank within a period of 3 months, failing which the bank will proceed to Break open the locker at their cost, risk and responsibility and the bank will exercise.

SL. NO	LOCKER NO.	NAME	DUE FOR YEARS	AMOUNT (RS)	ADDRESS
1	1/19	BHAGYA VENKATESH T	6	13978	NO 489 13TH A CROSS, 1st Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore-560078
2	24620/21	VIKRAM FELIX ROZARIO & HILSA FELIX	7	16048	APT 501, BLDG 2, SHANTHI PARK APARTMENTS, 9TH BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BANGALORE-560069
3	24620/8	RAJASHEKAR T V & RAJESHWARI T	8	16048	# 02-01 WEST BAY CONDOMINIUM,BLOCK-56, WEST COAST CRESCENT, SINGAPORE-128038 (319/C, 9TH A MAIN, 40TH CROSS, 5TH BOCK, JAYANAGAR, BANGALORE-560041)
4	23757/211	KAMALESH SHAH & ANITHA SHAH & SARITA NAHATA	4	19768	#942/22, 6TH CROSS, 2ND MAIN, BSK 1ST STAGE, BANGALORE - 560041
5	6/94	COLLETTE MANNINA & G C CHRISTOPHER	8	17773	1115, 8TH MAIN, BTM 1ST STAGE, BANGALORE-560076
6	8/16	MALA RAMANNA	6	19470	NO. 825, 24TH MAIN, SARAKKI, 2ND PHASE, JP NAGAR, BANGALORE-560078
7	51017/29	DIVAKAR B K & SHRUTHI G N	10	32096	NO. 233, 13TH MAIN, 3RD STAGE, 1ST BLOCK, MANJUNATHNAGAR, BANGALORE-560010
8	23757/196	C R ASWATHANARAYAN & SULOCHANA ASWATH	14	32096	NO. 659, 1STS A CROSS, 11TH MAIN, 5TH BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BANGALORE
9	14/21	DIPTI PUJA MARU	6	22116	FLAT NO. 104, BLDG NO. 1, SHANTI PART APART-MENTS, 9TH BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BANGALORE-560069

Date : 22/03/2025
Place : BANGLORE
Sd/-BRANCH MANAGER

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Sri. MAYANNA .M .R, S/o Ramanna & Smt.SHANTHALA .V, W/o Sri.Mayanna M.R,** residing No.347, "Varada Nilaya", 4th 'C' Cross, 5th Block, 3rd Phase, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, BSK III Stage, Bengaluru-560085, are intending to purchase the Schedule Property from **Miss.Divya .G, D/o G.Janardhana Naidu & Sri.G.Janardhana Naidu, S/o Guravaiah Naidu,** residing at: No.7-20, Papi Chetty Palle, Mogaralapalle, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh-517132.

Any interested person/s having any manner of right or title or interest or claim or objection or however otherwise, may file his / her/ their objections or claims in writing to the below mentioned address with relevant documents in support of his / her /their claim or objection within **7 days** from the date of this public notice, failing which my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property treating that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Site No.998,** Old PID No.55-480-998, in the layout known as "Hosakerehalli Extension", formed by the BDA, situated at **3rd Main Road, 2nd Phase, 7th Block, Hosakerehalli,** within the jurisdiction of Ward No.161-Hosakerehalli, BBMP, Bengaluru, measuring East to West **60 feet** and North to South **40 feet,** totally measuring to an extent of **2400 square feet** together with a residential building thereon consisting of Ground and First Floor with all civic amenities and bounded on:

East by: BDA Land, West by: Road, North by: Site No.997, South by: Site No.999.

Lokesha.G, Advocate,
No. 235, 8th Main, Byrasandra,
Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011
Mob: 9845307906

PUBLIC NOTICE

I the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients **Govindappa and Anitha** have filed the above petition for the death certificate of one **Late. Devaraju S/o late. Thimmaiah who died on 18.12.2019** at No.386, Bettahalasur Village, Near Muttyalamma Temple, Yelahanka North Taluk, Bangalore, if any 3rd perties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Addl Civil Judge and J.M.F.C at Devanahalli and the date hearing **on 26.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M in Crl.Mis.No. 143/2025.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
Sri Ashwinkumar .B.M, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase from its joint and absolute owners i.e., MR. G K SUMAN and MR. GURUPRASAD K V, all that piece and parcel of immoveable property bearing **Village Panchayath PID No. 150300201900500066, Khatha No.6/12/2/7/12/3,** measuring **8.36 Guntas / 9,108 (Nine Thousand One Hundred and Eight) Square Feet**, carved out of converted land bearing **Survey No. 12** (converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum bearing No. BDS/LRN/SR(D)/12/1990-91 dated 24.10.1990 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at **Upparahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District**, presently coming under the administrative jurisdiction of Udayagiri, Anneshwara Gram Panchayath, Devanahalli Block, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Private Property in Survey No.13 (Goyal and Co. Development); West by : Bangalore Devanahalli Road; North by : Portion of land in Survey No.12 allocated to the joint share of Jagdish R Bajaj and Sanjay R Bajaj; and South by : Portion of land in Survey No. 12 of Srinivas Murthy;

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person asserting any right, title, claim, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or any other interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit their objections in writing together with documentary proof of such claim, so as to reach me at the address given below within a period of 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no such objections are received, it shall be deemed that the aforesaid persons have a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that none else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and my client would be at liberty to purchase the Schedule Property.

M B Anirudh, Advocate
No. 6, S Kariyappa Road,
Earlier South Cross Road, Basavanagudi,
Bengaluru 560004

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING LOSS OF Partition Deed Dated 21-01-1991.

The General Public is hereby notified that under the instruction of my client **K.M. JAYARAM,** S/o. Marappa, aged about 64 years, residing at No. 69k, 1st K block, Kethamarenahalli, Rajajinagar, Bengalore -560 010 that after death of my client's father Marappa, all the legal heirs of late Marappa have been prepared and executed an unregistered oral Partition Deed among their family members on 21-01-1991. Thereafter all the properties, mentioned in the above said partition deed, standing in the respective all legal heirs by way of katha and paying tax and all are in possession and enjoyment of the said properties. The above said partition deed dated 21-01-1991 has been lost on 01-02-2025 while shifting house things from one house to another house in kethamarenahalli, Rajajinagar Bengaluru-560 010. My client verified and searched the same in his house. But he could not find the same. Hence my client has lodged police complinat on 20-3-2025 vide lost report no. 1529649/2025.

Hence the general public is hereby noticed that not to transaction or deal with in any manner whatsoever in respect of the schedule properties mentioned in the partition deed dated 21-01-1991, in spite of this, if any person/third party create or deals any kind of transactions from here onwards it is void and it will not be binding on my client and it will be on their own risk and liability.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY A to L mentioned in the oral unregistered partition deed dated 21-1-1991

'A' schedule (Item No. 1 and 2)-share of M Krishnappa
'B' schedule (Item No.1 to 3) -share of K.M. Ramaswamy
'C' schedule (25 thousand only) - share of Gowramma
'D' schedule (Item No. 1 to 3)- share of K.M. Jayaram
'E' schedule (Item No. 1 and 2) - share of K.M. Venkateshmurty
'F' schedule (25,000) - share of Biyanna
'G' schedule (Item No. 1)-share of Munigangamma
'H' schedule (Item No. 1)-share of Shanthamma
'I' schedule (Item No. 1)- share of M Chinnappa
'J' schedule (Item No. 1)-share of C Komalamma
'K' schedule (Item No. 1)-share of C Vimalamma
'L' schedule (Item No. 1) - share of C Shyamala

SHIMOGA NAGARAJA H.H.
PRIYADARSHINI D, ADVOCATES
MB. NO. 9448828558
MB. NO. 9916010614
nag_shimoga@yahoo.co.in
No. 640/3, 'D' Block, Rajajinagara, 2nd Stage,
Dr: Rajkumar road, Bengaluru-10
hhnagarajadv@gmail.com

QuoteExpress

PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES

ROBERT H SCHULLER

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Sri. Raghavendra Rao Prakash Rao** is the absolute owner of Residential Flat bearing No.102, in Ground Floor, in the building known as "Anand Arcade", constructed on Property bearing old House list No. 41, Present Property No.41/3/1A, Situated at Pattanagere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru (Originally, Sri.A.D.Bojanna was the absolute owner of the Schedule property, he had availed loan from State Bank of Mysore by depositing title deeds of schedule property. Due to non-payment of said loan amount, the said bank has conducted the Auction in respect of schedule property, Mr. M. V. Prakash Rao is the highest bidder in the said Auction and the same was confirmed by the Bank, Accordingly, the said State Bank of Mysore by its Authorized Officer has executed sale certificate dated 10.05.2013 vide registered as Doc No. RRN-1-00526-2013-14, of Book-I, stored in CD No. RRND109, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru in favour of Sri.M.V.Prakash Rao and the said Mr.M.V.Prakash Rao had executed Gift deed dated 27.10.2023 in favor of my client Sri. Raghavendra Rao Prakash Rao vide registered as doc. No.RRN-I-07415-2023-24 registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Rajarajeshwarinagara, Bengaluru), In this connection, anybody, legal heirs of the A.D.Bojanna or A.D.Bojanna and general public and any financial institutions who have any claim/objection/details of disputes over the below mentioned property shall lodge such claim/objection in writing with supporting documents with the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my client will proceed or any other transaction as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the schedule property and thereafter no claims/objections/ disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of portion of Property bearing old House list No. 41, Present Property No.41/3/1A, Situated at Pattanagere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 50 feet and North to South: 60 + 53/2 feet and bounded on the:

East by : Road 7 Food Corporation Godown, West by : Property No.42,
North by : Road, South by: Remaining portion of Site No.66

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of residential Flat bearing No.102, Ground Floor, "Anand Arcade", constructed on the above schedule A Property, BHEL Layout, Pattanagere, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098 and with super built up area of 900 Sq. feet, with mosaic flooring with 289 Sq. feet (1/11th share) undivided right and interest in the Schedule A Property and bounded on:

East by : Road, West by : Flat No.101,
North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

Mr. Aswath. B, Advocate
#36 (317/C), 9th A Main, 40th Cross, 5th Block, Jayanagara Bangalore -560041
Contact No : 9901944099 E-mail: aswath.bb@gmail.com

Government of Karnataka
RDW&S Division
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mysore-570022

Short Term Tender Notification No: 23/2024-25
Date: 20.03.2025

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Items rate tenders under KW1, KW2 ,KW-3 & KW-4 Standard Bid documents (One cover system) has been called for **1.Providing services of Manpower on outsource basis for Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mysore, (Estimate cost Rs 83.00 Lakhs) ; 2. Providing services of Manpower on outsource basis for Laboratory Employees of Mysuru District Lab K.R Nagara and H.D Kote Taluk Lab on outsource basis for Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mysore (Estimate cost Rs 41.82 Lakhs)** under the Head of Account: **Support Activity and WQMSP**. Tender is been invited as per Karnataka transparency Act G.O.No.FD9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06.08.2005 and as per recent amendments, Date of uploading Tender forms under e-procurement Dt: **20.03.2025 5:30 PM** onwards, Last Date for submitting the filled Tender forms is **27.03.2025 upto 5:30PM**, Opening of Technical bid **28.03.2025, 5.30 PM** onwards, Opening of Financial bid after approval of Technical bid. Eligible Agencies can participate in the tender process and for e-procurement support contact e-procurement Tel. Phone No 080 – 22485867, 080-22485927. For more details log on to **https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** or contact the Officer under signed at office hours. Phone No.0821-2460 495. Tender Form Fees – As per e-procurement.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, RDW&S,Division,Mysore

DIPR-DD-MYS/ 1481/KSMCA-108 /2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

1, the undersigned Mr. R.M.Kalyanshetti, Advocate, Mahalingeshwar Nagar, Gokak-591 307, Dist.; Belagavi, Karnataka, [KAR-117/1991] under the instructions & authority given by my client Sri Prateek S/o. Shivamurti Jodagudri, R/o. behind Hotel Neelkamal, Sankeshwar Road, Gadhinglaj, Dist. Kolhapur, Maharashtra, (Cell; 8459889905), do hereby alerts the public at large in respect of the following facts;

That, my client is a B.Tech. Engineer, who intends to purchase a residential apartment at Bengaluru & as part of such an intention he approached intending vendor/s of residential apartment which has been fully described in the schedule herein below.

That, in connection with sale of schedule property my client "Intending Purchaser Mr. Prateek S. Jodagudri of Gadhinglaj had talks with "Land owner, Mr. Madhu Radhkrishna S/o. R.Radhakrishna Rao, Bengaluru", "Developer, M/s. Vajram Estates Pvt. Ltd.,, Bengaluru-560 103". That, during the course of discussions said Land Owner/s and said Developer disclosed that, they are lawfully authorized & empowered to enter into a lawful sale transaction in respect of the below described schedule property for lawful consideration amount.

That, my client intends to know that who are the absolute & exclusive owner/s of the schedule property which has been put for out-right sale and it is being processed by the 'Land owner/s' with the assistance of 'Developer'. Therefore, the PUBLIC IN GENERAL are hereby asked to put in their contentions in the form of objections accompanied by supporting claim & documents establishing their any kind of such right, title & interest in the schedule property, within a period of 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice.

If no such claim / objections are raised in stipulated time period, the same shall result in advising my said client to proceed further in the matter by entering into Agreement of Sale as well as out-right registered sale deed in respect of schedule property, in his favor & proper documentation as per law.

SCHEDUL OF PROPERTY

2 BHK Bedroom Apartment Bearing No. T1-D-701, situated on the 7th floor, Block-D, of the Project known as "Vajram NewTown II". This project is being constructed in the land bearing Khata No. 2092/58,60,61/1,64/1 formed in Survey No. 60 situated at Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North (additional) Taluk, having its common boundaries: **East** by Land in Survey No. 59; **West** by Land in Survey No. 64/1; **South** by Land in Survey No. 61 & **North** by remaining land in Survey No. 60;

[Converted vide order: O.M. No. ALN (Nay):SR: 35/2008-2009 dated 25.10.2008]

Place: Gokak
Date: 22-03-2025

Sd/-
R.M.Kalyanshetti,
Advocate (Cell; 9448421066)

IN THE COURT OF THE III ADDL. DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE AT ANEKAL

G & W C No. 5004/2025

BETWEEN: Sri. Manobala .S, S/o Sri. M. Selvaraj, aged about 42 years, R/at # 6/1, 9/2, 2nd Main Road, 2nd Cross, Brindavan Nagar, Chikkadugodi, DRC Post, Bangalore-560029.... **PETITIONER**

AND: Nil ... RESPONDENT

SUMMONS

Whereas the petitioner have filed petition in G & WC No. 5004/2025 seeking permission of the Hon'ble Court alienate the suit schedule property

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Land bearing E-Katha PID No. 150200103200222038, site No. 313/44, measuring East to West 15.24 meters, North to South 9.15 meters, Totally 139.44 sq meters, situated at Rajapura village, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, bounded on: **East by:** House No.48, **West by:** Road, **North by:** House No. 45 and 46, **South by:** House no.43.

Hence any interested to appear in person or through an advocate on **24/04/2025** at **11:00 A.M** without fail, to answer before the said court, failing which the matter will be disposed on enquiry and determined ex-parte.

Give under my hand and seal of the court on this 22/03/2025

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, III Addl. District & Sessions Court, Anekal, Bangalore Rural District

MURTHY .M, Advocate
R/at Revvanna Building, Chowdareddy Circle, Anekal Town, Anekal.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **M/s. J.P.ASSOCIAT,** having its office at **No.2,** Inside Prashanth Garden,Opp Manipal Country, Singasandra, Bangalore-560068. Represented by its Partners **1) Sri. R.B.Jaiprasad,** Aged about **43** years, S/o Late. Ramanna, **2) Smt. Babitha,** Aged about **39** years, W/o Sri.R.B.Jaiprasad, for the purchase of the property described in the schedule herein below, from **Sri. Dornala Venkata Reddy,** Aged about **42** years, S/o Sri. Dornala Narsa Reddy, Residing at Flat No.G,101, FF Concord Silicon Valley, Neeladri Nagar Main Road, Electronic City Phase-I, Bangalore-560100, Any person or persons having/asserting any right, title, lien or interest/claims in the schedule property or intending to oppose the purchase of the schedule property in any manner may intimate the same in writing along with documentary evidence and objections in support of their claim to the undersigned. Within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my clients will be advised to proceed and complete the purchase of the said property on the basis that there are no valid claims subsisting against the schedule property.

: THE SCHEDULE PROPERTIES :

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing **House No.130/A, M.I.G, BBMP Katha No.130/A,** and its having **PID No. 67-4-130/A,** within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahangara Palike, **Ward No.151/Koramangala,** Situated at **KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD COLONY, 5TH BLOCK, KORAMANGALA, BANGALORE,** measures an extent of **East to West 12.20 Meters and North to South 19.20+17.37/2 Meters,** total measuring in all **223.07 Square Meters,** Vacant area, with all right of easements appurtenances either latent patent attached to the schedule property and bounded as follows:

East by : House No.130,	**West by : KHB Site No.130/B,**
North by: Drain and Road,	**South by : KHB Site No.126/A.**

Mr. M. Srinivasa, Advocate,
No.97, Sri Venugopala Swamy Nilaya,
60 feet Road, 3rd Cross, 16th East Main, Mico Layout, Hongasandra, Bangalore-560068.
Mobile No.9448558534.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Publics are hereby informed that my Client **Sri.T.S.Deepak Kumar** intends to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its present owner **Puneethkumar S,** S/o.Shivanna T, Resident of Katamanadoddi village, Sugganahalli post, Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara district. If anybody is having any objections, claims, interest, dispute in respect of the below mentioned schedule property, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proofs substantiating his/her/their objections/ claims/details of dispute/s within **Seven [7] days** from the date of this publication, failing which, my Clients will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/ objections/ disputes in respect of the schedule property and thereafter no claims/ objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of land bearing **Sy.No.109/6 (Old No.109/1)** measuring to an **extent of 23 Guntas** and **Sy.No.109/7 (Old No.109/2)** measuring to **an extent of 18.08 Guntas**, in all totally measuring **1-01.08 (one Acre one and half Guntas)** both the properties are situated at Bovmuchanahalli Village, Kasab Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara district bounded on :-East by: Property of Byranna (Sy.No.109/3) West by : Property of Lakshmamma(Sy.No.225), North by: Government Halla(Kaluve), South by: property of Jayamma (Sy.No.109/1 & 109/2).

RAMESHA.MS, Advocate
No.114/39-1, Office No.2, 1st Floor,
Off Magadi road, Near Tollgate,
2nd Main road, Rajajinagara Industrial Town,
Bengaluru-560 044, Mob No.9900979927,
Email ID:-Rameshtsc.ms@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client **Smt. Manjula** is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule Property.

The Original Sale deed dated 05.09.2003 doc. no.6598/2003-04 Book-I in the office of the Sub Registrar, Anekal for the property bearing Site No.238, carved out of Survey.No:210, Situated at Sapthagiri Badavane, comes under the Jurisdiction of Samandhur Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring East 32 feet, West 27 feet, North 40 feet South 40 feet, in all measuring 1180 Sq. Ft. along with other properties is misplaced/lost by client. In this connection, a police complaint has been lodged on 19.03.2025 vide Acknowledgement of Police Complaint vide Lost Report No.1529135/2025.

Any Person finds the document may handover the same to the undersigned within 15 days from this day. If the said document is misused by anybody, it shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall be doing so at him/her own costs and risks.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.238, Old Katha No.238, PID No.150200102401000598 issued by Samandhur Grama Panchyath, carved out of Survey Number 210, measuring East 32 Feet, North 27 feet, North 40 feet, South 40 feet in all measuring 1180 Sq.Ft. Situated at Sapathagiri Layout, Anekal Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded on the East by: Site No.243, West by: Road, North by: Site No.239, South by: Site No.237.

Aswath B, Advocate
#36 (317/C), 9th A Main, 40th Cross,
5th Block, Jayanagara Bangalore -560041
Contact No : 9901944099
E-mail: aswath.bb@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that, I Mr.Mohammed Arif Ulla have lost the 1) Original Sale Deed dated 28.03.1994 as Document No.58/1994-95, Volume No.1680, Pages 68-71 and 2) Original Sale Agreement dated 21.09.2013 as Document No.SRI-1-03353/2013-14.

I hereby state that I have sold the property bearing **Municipal No.4, (Old No.1 and 21/1), New E-PID No.7427043426,** situated at 5th B Cross Road, Shamanna Nagar Bengaluru, **Ward No.134,** measuring East to West: 68-0 feet and North to South: 18+15/2 feet, totally measuring 1122 square feet in favour of Mr.Abdulla Shahid and Mr.Abdulla Maksood (Present Owners of the Schedule Property) vide Sale Deed dated 11.04.2019, as Document No.VJN-1-00481/2019-20 (registered on 20.04.2019).At the time of Registration of above mentioned sale deed dated 20.04.2019.I had not handed over the Original Sale Deed dated 28.03.1994 and Original Sale Agreement dated 21.09.2013.Recently, the Present Owners Mr.Abdulla Shahid and Mr.Abdulla Maksood contacted me regarding the Originals of Sale Deed dated 28.03.1994 and Sale Agreement dated 21.09.2013. Despite searching my premises, I have been unable to locate them.

If any person coming across the above mentioned Original Sale Deed dated 28.03.1994 and Original Sale Agreement dated 21.09.2013, shall immediately handover the same to the undersigned. If any person, who has/have claim on the schedule property, may lodge such claim with the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this notice. If no such claim(s) or objections received within the stipulated time, the undersigned will issue certificate of clearance that, there is no objections or claim(s) on the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Municipal No.4, (Old No.1 and 21/1), New E-PID No.7427043426,** situated at 5th B Cross Road, Shamanna Nagar Bengaluru, **Ward No.134,** measuring East to West: 68-0 feet and North to South: 18+15/2 feet, totally measuring 1122 square feet, along with constructed building thereon and bounded on;

East by : Others Property, West by : Road, North by : Others Property, South by : Property No.2

GOWRI PRADEEP, Advocate
69, Shree Nilaya, 8th Main, S.K. Layout,
Jnana Jyothi Nagar, Bangalore-560056.
Ph.No. 9886814698, 8147294698
Place : Bengaluru Date : 22.03.2025

NBA Chairman Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe inaugurates a workshop with VTU Vice Chancellor Dr S Vidyashankar and others in Bengaluru on Saturday

NBA hosts workshop on outcome-based education

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE National Board of Accreditation (NBA), in collaboration with Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) and Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), inaugurated a workshop on 'Outcome-Based Education and Accreditation' on Saturday. The event, attended by over 300 academic leaders and administrators from colleges across Karnataka, focused on preparing institutions to meet NBA accreditation standards.

NBA Chairman Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe inaugurated the workshop alongside VTU Vice Chancellor Dr S Vidyashankar, Gokula Education Foundation President Dr MR Jayaram, GEF Advisor Prof PN Rajdan, NBA Member Secretary Dr Anil Kumar Nassa, and RUAS Academic Dean Prof RV Ranganath.

In his keynote address, the NBA Chairman highlighted the importance of Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies (GAPC-4), a framework under NBA's outcome-based accreditation system.

Dr Vidyashankar emphasised the importance of student placements as a key measure of an institution's success while Dr Jayaram underscored the importance of career readiness and skill development, highlighting that placements must be backed by strong skill sets.

TWO OFFICERS REGISTER PROPERTIES WITHOUT E-KATHAS, SUSPENDED

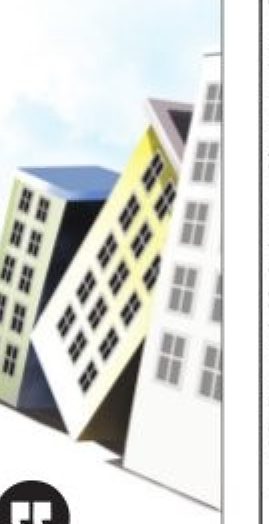
S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Stamps and Registration Department on Tuesday suspended two senior sub-registrars attached to JP Nagar sub-registrars office for violating its directive on registering properties.

They had registered 96 sale deeds without e-katha documents, which are now mandatory.

The suspended officials have been identified as Devaraj and KR Nagaraj. While Devaraj registered over 52 sale deeds using physical khatas, Nagaraj registered 44 sale deeds. They were suspended after a departmental inquiry. The state government made e-khatas mandatory for registration of properties in Bengaluru from September 30, 2024, in bid to end corruption. Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps KV Dayananda said the department has ordered an inquiry into registration of properties in Jayanagar, Rajajinagar, Basavanagudi, Gandhi Nagar and Shivajinagar sub-registrars' offices.

He said the inquiry revealed that not only these two officials, but many have registered properties in violation of registration norms. They have registered properties without e-khatas. All registrations done in the city in January and February this year will be scrutinised. More sub-registrars are likely to be suspended soon, he added. A senior sub-registrar said the state government should amend the Indian Registration Act, 1908, provisions of which are followed while registering properties. The Act does not make e-kathas mandatory for registration of properties. Mere government orders are not enough, he added. The state government tabled a Bill proposing amendments to the Act in the Assembly on Wednesday, Dayananda said.



The department has ordered an inquiry into registration of properties in Jayanagar, Rajajinagar, Basavanagudi, Gandhi Nagar and Shivajinagar sub-registrars' offices

KV Dayananda, Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps

No prior approval, HC says probe against three officials null

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court declared that the preliminary investigation conducted against three public servants working at the Jagalur Town Panchayat in Davanagere district is not valid as it was conducted without obtaining the prior approval from the competent authority as required under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order while partly allowing the petitions filed by S Laxmi, working as a chief officer of the town panchayat, during 2015-16 and her predecessor Surendra GS and Srinivas H, who was junior engineer at the panchayat.

The petitioners moved the court, questioning the investigation and collection of documents by the Lokayukta police before registering the First Information Report and prior approval. The investigation was based on an anonymous complaint that the petitioners had drawn funds even before executing the works.

"It is declared that the enquiry, inquiry or investigation of the kind conducted in the case at hand prior to June 17, 2023, the date of approval granted, is null and void. Liberty is reserved to the Lokayukta police to proceed against the petitioners in a manner known to the law, bearing in mind the observations made in the course of the order," the court said. Referring to a Supreme Court judgment, the high court said for an inquiry, enquiry or investigation, approval under Section 17A is mandatory. Section 17A was introduced by way of an amendment on July 26, 2018.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Original Sale Deed dated 04/02/1994 executed in favour of Flt. Lt. Rakesh Sinha, registered as document No.5449/1993-94, Book I, Volume No.682, at pages 242 to 243 with the office of the Sub Registrar, K.R.Puram, Bangalore in respect of the property bearing vacant site No.63, House List Khatha No.746, situated at Dasarahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk now comes BBMP measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1500 square feet has been lost in transit during the period of 2015.

Any person/s, have found the same may return it to the undersigned or any objections relating to the same may contact the below within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of this notice.

C.P. SAJEEV AND
JAISRI S. KRISHNAN, Advocates
No. 34 & 35, 1st Floor, 8th Main,
13th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003.
Ph. No. 9845200930 & 9880748335

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mahantesh P Pilibantar** S/o Late Padiyappa M Pilibantar is the absolute owner of property bearing site No.,94, Khatha No.696/94, Basavanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, measuring East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft, having acquired through registered sale deed dated 10-10-2012 executed by Smt. Shanthamma.

My client lost the previous registered original sale deed dated 01/12/2006 registered as document No.8646/2006-07 standing in the name of C. Nagarathna.

In view of the above, I hereby notify the general public not to transact with any person, falsely claiming to be owner of the said property based on the above described document and further if anybody finds the above described document may be handed over to undersigned.

RAVISHANKAR M SWAMY, Advocate
No.45/2B, 2nd Floor, B. Srinivas Building, Shop No.3 & 4, Tulasi Theatre Road, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037.
Date:22-03-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Original Sale Deed dated 04/02/1994 executed in favour of Lt. Devesh Sinha, registered as document No.5443/1993-94, Book I, Volume No.682, at pages 240 to 241 with the office of the Sub Registrar, K.R.Puram, Bangalore in respect of the property bearing vacant site No.62, House List Khatha No.748, situated at Dasarahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk now comes BBMP measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1500 square feet has been lost in transit during the period of 2015.

Any person/s, have found the same may return it to the undersigned or any objections relating to the same may contact the below within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of this notice.

C.P. SAJEEV AND
JAISRI S. KRISHNAN, Advocates
No. 34 & 35, 1st Floor, 8th Main,
13th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003.
Ph. No. 9845200930 & 9880748335

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my Client **Mr. S. MOHAMMED SALEEM,** S/o. Mr. Mohammed Shafee, R/at No. 210, 2nd Cross, 2nd Block, Teachers Colony, HBR Layout, Bangalore-560 043, is intending to Purchase the residential property bearing a Portion of Khata No. 639/75/138, formed in Asst. No. 138, situated at Subhash Layout, Kacharkanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward # 24, HBR Layout, measuring 40 feet x 60 feet, totally 2400 sq.ft. of land from its absolute registered owner Mr. SEBASTIAN THOMAS, S/o. Mr. Thomas, a resident of Babusapalya, Bangalore-560 043.

Any person or persons including legal heirs who claims any right, title, or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the aforesaid property and/or has any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned Advocate together with supporting documents within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, hereof, failing which it will be presumed that NO VALID CLAIMS or OBJECTIONS subsist and my Client would proceed to complete the sale transaction with the present owner, thereof, subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

sd/- **MUKTHAR AHMED,** M.Com., LL.B., ADVOCATE, No. 140, M.M. Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560 005, M : 99454-11052.
Place : Bangalore, Dated : 22-03-2025

IN THE COURT OF THE VIth ADDL SENIOR CITY CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT, AT BENGALURU

EX NO 48/2024

BETWEEN: Sri Narendra Babu ...**Decree Holder**
AND: Smt Jamuna Devi
Bhagiratharam Bhari & another ...**Judgment Debtor**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above mentioned Decree Holder has made a petition to this court under order VII rule 1 and 2 read with section 26 of CPC for the relief of specific performance in favour of the Decree Holder, in O.S.No 95/2012, as per the final judgment passed on 5th of April 2023 the Decree Holder has filed this Execution Petition No 48/2024 seeking execution of Sale Deed in his favour based on the Sale Agreement dated 16/5/2011 executed by the Judgment Debtors in favour of the Decree Holder herein.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or pleader duly instructed on **22/4/2025 at 11am** in order to show cause against the Decree Holder in O.S.No 95/2012 and Execution 48/2024 filed by the Decree Holder failing which this Hon'ble court will be pleased to execute Sale Deed in favour of the Decree Holder in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being a Residential Vacant Site bearing No. 73, coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (B.B.M.P.) Katha No. 98/2 of Yelahanka Sub-Division, situated at KOGILU Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West :: 30'-0" feet, North to South: 30'-0" feet, in all measuring 900 Sq. feet, and bonded on the
East by : Site No 72 **West by:** Site No. 74
North by: 20 Feet Road **South by:** Site No. 102
Given under my hand and seal of this court on 21/3/2025

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Senior Civil Judge Court
Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru
Advocate for Decree Holder

IN THE COURT OF THE 30th Addl. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE CCH-31

P & SC. NO. 96/2025

BETWEEN: Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled ® No. 39, 15th Cross, 16th Main, Sector -4, HSR Layout Bengaluru -560102. Represented by Mahantesh Ghativalappa Kivadasannavar Founder managing trustee of Samarthanam trust for the disabled
RESPONDENT: Nil

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the above named petitioner has made Petition to this Court under section 276 of the Indian succession act, 1925 for the grant of probate Certificate in favour of the petitioner, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by late M.K. Lalitha W/o Late Sri. K.N. Sathayanarayana Rao, who passed away on 15/06/2024 by executing Registered will dated 23/10/2019. To the Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, Represented by Mahantesh Ghativalappa Kivadasannavar.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **08th April 2025 at 11 a.m.** inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing No. PID Khatha No. 57-80-933, situated at No. 933, 21st Main Road JP Nagar 2nd Phase Bengaluru Presently coming under the BBMP Ward No. 177- J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru Measuring East to west 18.29 meters and North and South 12.19 Meters, in all measuring 222.96 Square meters, together with building consisting of Ground and first floor Measuring totally 1400 sq. ft. and bounded on the: **East by** :Road **West by** :Site No. 932, **North by** :Site No. 934, and **South by** : Property no. 933-A, Previously BDA Vacant land Property
Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 19th day of March 2025

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristedar
City Civil court, Bangalore
K. Chandra Mohan Advocate
R.K. Associates
No.19, Queens Road, Bengalore-560052

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that our client ***Mrs. Radha L Radhakrishna*** (***"Our Client"***), wife of Late Mr. Ramesh G Radhakrishna, is the joint owner, having 50% undivided right, title and interest in respect of all that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing PID No. 14 – 39 – 79, Old No. 363, 19th Main Road, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560 010, measuring East to West 90 feet and North to South 50 + 48 / 2 Feet, which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "***Schedule Property***".

General public is hereby put to notice and cautioned not to deal with or enter into any transaction concerning the Schedule Property only with Mrs. Geetha Ramamurthy (other co-owner) without the consent of our Client. General public is also notified that no individual or entity is authorised to enter into any contractual or financial arrangements concerning the Schedule Property, without the prior written consent of our Client. Anyone transacting with respect to the Schedule Property or advancing any money would be doing so at their own risk and consequences.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing PID No. 14 – 39 – 79, Old No. 363, 19th Main Road, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560 010, measuring East to West 90 feet and North to South 50 + 48 / 2 Feet, and bounded on:
East by : 19th Main Road;
West by : Premises No. 440;
North by : SW Drain and Site No. 362;
South by : Site No. 364.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 23.03.2024

Issued by:
Mr. Kashyap N Naik
Partner, Agraa Legal
Advocates and Consultants
Address: 3rd Floor, Shravanee Krishna Mansion, 31, Ashoka Pillar Road, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bangalore – 560 011;
Ph: 080- 29620001/ 29620002

Can Fin Homes Ltd.

Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor: CANARA BANK) HOME LOANS + DEPOSITS *Translating Dreams into Reality*

CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699
No. S-1356, 1st Floor, BEL Layout 2nd Stage, Herohalli, Magadi Main Road, Bengaluru-91.
Phone: 080 - 23282923, M : 8951896287
E-Mail : magadi.road@canfinhomes.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)] [For Immovable Property]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Can Fin Homes Ltd.** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **30-12-2024** calling upon the **borrowers : Mr. Channagopal and Mrs. Padmavathi** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 21,63,839/-** (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Nine Only) with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 (of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) on this the **17th day of March of the year 2025.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Can Fin Homes Ltd** for an amount of **Rs. 21,63,839/-** (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Nine Only) and interest thereon.

Description of immovable property : All that piece and parcel of Property Bearing Northern Portion of site No. 122, Old Khatha No. 1/21, situated at Pillaganahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru. Property Measuring East to West : 40 Feet and North to South : 15 Feet, Totally measuring 600 Square Feet. **Bounderies : East by :** Site No. 128, **West by :** 25 Feet Road, **North by :** Site No. 123, **South by :** Southern Portion of same Site No. 122.

Place: Bengaluru **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Date: 22-03-2025 **Can Fin Homes Ltd.**

INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AUCTION BANGALORE LIMITED

24, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024,
Mobile No. 8431235867, 8431235858
E-Mail:- ifablimited@gmail.com, Website :-www.ifabindia.org

No.IFAB/2023-24/SE0019/CALL-3	DATE: 11.03.2025
No.IFAB/2024-25/SE0022/CALL-2	DATE: 11.03.2025
No.IFAB/2023-24/SE0017/CALL-3	DATE: 11.03.2025
No.IFAB/2023-24/SE0018/ CALL-3	DATE: 11.03.2025

TENDER FOR RENTAL OCCUPANCY FOR SHOP NO. 1, 2, 4 and Floral Mall AT FLORAL STUDIO OF IFAB

Two bid system online tenders are invited through Karnataka e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, by IFAB Ltd., for Rental Occupancy of Floral mall and **Shop No 1, 2, 4** of floral studio, from the interested parties. The documents are available in the Karnataka e-Procurement Portal only from **11.03.2025** and last date for bid submission is on **28.03.2025** till **5.00PM.**

No.IFAB/MD/ADMIN/15/2024-25 **DATE: 21.03.2025**

POST OF GENERAL MANAGER

IFAB is looking for a young, energetic, enthusiastic and forward looking candidate for the post of **GENERAL MANAGER** on contract basis.

Qual: Any degree with 5 years experience with good managerial and communications skills and preference shall be given to candidates who have experience in the field of finance or supply chain management and export of agricultural/horticultural commodities preferably flower crops.

Interested candidates may send in their application along with a detailed bio-data and the relevant enclosures in respect of qualification, experience, etc. to the above mentioned address or email to reach the office on or before **01.04.2025.**

DIPR/CP/5851/SSC/2024-25 **Sd/- Managing Director**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public from my client as under:-

My client is willing to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule from its owner and he is in Possession of the same.

Therefore, any person/s, Financial Institution/s having any right, claim or interest in the schedule property or portion of the Schedule Property, shall forward their objections to the under signed in writing along with supporting documents within **15 (FIFTEEN) days** from the date of this Public Notice. Any claim or objection received after the expiry of the said period, will not be binding over the schedule mentioned property and my client .

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant residential Site bearing No. 46, Katha No. 30, Property Unique Code No. 150200101300800351, Property No. (as per grama Panchayath records): 347/46, measuring East to West: **15.24 Meters (50.00 Feet)** and North to South: **9.144 Meters (30.00 Feet),** in all measuring **139.35 Sq. Meters (1500.00 Sq. Feet)** in converted land in **Sy No. 188** as per orders dated: 15-09-2008 passed by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, in his Orders No. ALN (A) (K) S.R.44/2008-09 which is situated at Thatnahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Byagadadenahalli, Grama Panchayath, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, layout called as **"SAI ANUGRAHA ENCLAVE"** and bounded on:- **East by :** Site No. 9, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Site No. 45, **South by :** Site No. 47.

JAYAKUMAR - Advocate
Office: No. 565/A, 20th Cross, 4th Main, 1st Stage, Vidyaranyapuram,Mysore-570008. **PH: 9844539729**
Date : 20-03-2025
Place : Mysore

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MEGALIFT, BHUBANESWAR

Plot No: A - 8/2, 1st Floor, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022 (Odisha),
ମୁଖ୍ୟଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବୃହତ୍ ଉଠା ଜଳସେଚନ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର
E-mail - cemlpwr.od@gmail.com, ☎: 91-0674-2567252, Fax: 91-0674-2567258

Bid Identification No. 14ML/2024-25
A-1220 **No.2796 / Dated: 17.03.2025**
DETAILED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Class/EMD /Tender Fee / Period of completion
1	Operation and Maintenance of existing 15 nos. schemes with intake points in Tel Basin having command area between 500 Ha. to 2000 Ha. in Megalift Cluster-XV in the districts of Sonepur, Boudh & Bolangir comprising all electro-mechanical & instrumentation equipments installed in pump house & MCC room including pumps and motors, switchyard & Transmission lines, intake well, Sump well, Rising main, Distribution chamber, Gravity main, complete distribution network by UGPL covering culturable command area of 20404.69 Ha. with operation of maintenance of all its 15 completed schemes including its power system connectivity, proper distribution of water to the ayacut including watch & ward with testing and calibration of all electro-mechanical components before the start of each irrigation period in the O & M period of 10 years on "Turn-key basis".	(1) Class - Super Class and equivalent (2) EMD/Bid Security - Rs. 63,84,000/- by online mode / Bank Guarantee as per the prescribed format. (3) The approximate value of work put to tender is Rs. 6384.00 lakh. (4) Tender Fee- Rs.10,000/- (Non-Refundable) by Online mode (5) O & M Period: 120 calendar months

A.	Date & Time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal	Dt. 25.03.2025 from 10.00 AM to Dt. 08.04.2025 up to 5.00 PM
B.	Period of Sale of Bidding Document	15 days
C.	Time and Date for Pre-Bid Conference	Dt. 02.04.2025 at 11.00 AM
E.	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids	Dt. 08.04.2025 up to 5.00PM
F.	Place of Sale, Receipt of Bids	On-Line Through e-Procurement.
G.	Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid	Dt. 15.04.2025 at 11.00 AM
H.	Place of Opening Of Bids	O/o the Chief Engineer, Megalift Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022

Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Megalift, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32504/11/0032/2425

BEFORE THE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL SPECIAL DISTRICT COURT THANJAVUR, STATE OF TAMILNADU
M.C.O.P.No.188/2024

1. **Kalaiselvi,** W/o. Jayabal, No.381/1, Mela Theru, Palaiyakariyapatti Village.
2. **Gayathiri,** D/o. Jayabal, No.584, North Street, Puthugudi Vadapathi Village,
3. **Kanchana,** D/o. Jayabal, No.18, North Street, Minnathur Village, Kurungulam Mel pathi, Thanjavur Taluk and District.
4. **Kavipriya,** D/o. Jayabal, No.638/1, Kallar Street, Velangudi Village, Venkatasamuthiram IInd Sethi, Budalur Taluk and Thanjavur District.
5. **Thangaponnu,** W/o.Ramasamy, No.381/1, Mela Theru, Palaiyakariyapatti Village.

Vs

1. **Papparthi Lokanatham,** Son of Hemabhushanam, # 3/13, 4th Main Hongasandra Begur, Main Road Bommanagalli Behind, MLA House Bangalore Ka 560068, now residing at No.45, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Vasantha Vallabha Nagar, Kothanur Main Road, J.P.Nagar, 8th Phase, Bangalore South, Bangaluru, Karnataka-560078.
2. **ACKO General Insurance Company ltd.** Unit No.3, 3rd Floor, E Wing, Lottus Corporate Park, Goregson (E), Mumbai-400063, rep by its Branch Manager having office at #36/5, Hustlehub One East, Somasandrapalya, 27the Main Road, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560102.

The husband of the 1st petitioner and the father of the 2nd to 4th petitioners and the son of the 5th petitioner by name Jayapal met with Motor Accident on 02.09.2023 and died on the same day at hospital. The petitioners filed compensation claim petition for the death of said Jayapal. Several times notice sent through court and post to the 1st respondent's address. The notices were not served. So as per the order of the Hon'ble Special District Judge, M.C.O.P.Tribunal Thanjavur this notice is published in this News Paper for the purpose of intimating the hearing date of the above case. The next hearing date of the case is 04.04.2024. The 1st respondent is hereby called upon to appear before the Hon'ble Special District Judge, Thanjavur on **04.04.2024 at about 10.30 a.m.** in person or through pleader, failing which the Hon'ble said court passed an order of ex party against the 1st respondent.

R.Mathiyalagan M.Com., B.L., Advocate
Plot No. 52, 13th Street, Natarajapuram South, Medical College Road, Thanjavur-613004, Tamil Nadu. **Cell: 9585283849**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.605/EEE/PD/AEE(O)/HVR/2024-25/1498-03 Date: 21.03.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited is energizing new 110kV lines. The details are as below,

1. 110KV SC line on DC towers using Lynx conductor from 110KV Tiluvalli Sub station to newly constructed 110KV Sub station at Haunsbhavi for a distance of 15.155 Kms in Hirekerur Taluk, Haveri District o**n or after 25.03.2025**. The said line is passing through Tiluvalli, Dhummihala, Attikatti, Sudambi, Madalura, Hireanaji, Thumrikoppa, Chinnamulagund, Chikkanaji, Haunsbhavi & Surrounding areas.

2. 110KV LILO line using Lynx conductor from 110KV Haveri-Hangal SC line to newly constructed 110KV Balambeeda Sub station for a distance of 0.936 Kms in Hangal Taluk, Haveri District **on or after 25.03.2025.** The said line is passing through Havanagi, Balmbeeda & Surrounding areas.

The above said Transmission lines will be energized on or after 25.03.2025. The general public residing near the said newly constructed 110KV line and surrounding villages are requested to keep away from this power line towers, not to tie animals to the towers and not to throw green sticks, wires, tree branches etc., on the lines and not to climb the towers. If any body does these things, it will be most dangerous to their lives or to their animals. Public of the above villages are requested to take utmost care. KPTCL will not be responsible for any accidents due to the above mentioned causes.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele),
Projects Division, KPTCL, Haveri.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga Ph: 08182-222943
Email ID: spdivision@gmail.com

Short-term Tender Notification (Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal)

IFT No. 46/2024-25 **Date: 21.03.2025**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply under head of account 5054-03-101-0-02-132-MDR Bridges, Reconstruction of Bridge at Chainage 1.20 Kms in Araga-Beluru Main Road to SH-52 Via Hosmane route in Thirtahalli Taluk in the year 2024-25 (Indent No-20321) in Thirthahalli tq, for Amount put to tender is. **Rs.193.14 Lakhs** & EMD amount is **Rs.2.90 Lakhs** Time allowed for completion of work is 11 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through KPPP- portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz., http://KPPP .karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **21-03-2025 to 05-04-2025** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **05-04-2025 at 17.00 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on **06-04-2025 at 05.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **07-04-2025** Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ./ಬಿ/ಸಂ.154–03/ ಧ್ವಾರ/2024–25
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Special Division, Shivamogga

Bank of Maharashtra

Zonal Office, Bengaluru : No. 465/A, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Opp: NMKRV College for Women, Jayanagar Bengaluru - 560011 **TELE :** 080-29509922
E-mail: cmmarc_ban@mahabank.co.in
H O: Lokmangal, 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

POSSESSION NOTICE
For Immovable property [Appendix IV under the Act-Rule-8(1)]

WHEREAS,

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 02.01.2025 calling upon the borrower, **M/s. Pagework India Private Limited** at Site No.48, S. No.60/2, New Green Land, Bellhalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore -560 064 and the Guarantors-i) **Mrs. Pooja Bhathad** at No.1411, Ground Floor, 13th Main Road, B Block, Sahakarnagar, Bengaluru-560 092 and ii) **Mr. Raghavendra Gajanana** at 2500, 1st Main, E Block, Sahakar Nagar, Bengaluru-560 092, to repay amount aggregating **Rs.1,54,95,614.00 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Four Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred Fourteen only)** plus unapplied interest thereon as mentioned in the demand notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The notice was sent through Regd. AD Post and also published in newspaper on 18.01.2025.

The borrower as well as guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower as well as guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules **on this 20th day of March of the year 2025.**

The borrower as well as guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra, **Brigade Road Branch** for an amount hereinabove mentioned.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as follows:

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing New BBMP Municipal No.15, Old No.14, (Previously No. 14/15) formed out of converted land bearing Survey No.72/2, BBMP PID No.11-84-15 measuring East to West : on the Northern side 38'6" & on the Southern side 47'6" and North to South : 30 ft. i.e. 1293 sq. ft. lying and situated at SRS Road, 2nd Cross, Peenya, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore and the Sites are butted and bounded as under-**On or towards North:** By Property No.13. **On or towards South:** By Property No. 15 **On or towards East:** By Alka Garment Property. **On or towards West:** By Road.

Date : 20/03/2025 **Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorized Officer**
Place : Bangalore Bank of Maharashtra, Bengaluru Zone

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APCRDA)

Lenin Centre, Governorpet, Vijayawada - 520 002 (A.P.)

E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

S.No	NIT No.	Name of the Work
1	NIT No. 110/ PROC/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/ 14/2024-HB, Dated. 22.03.2025	WORLD BANK & ADB financed Amaravati Capital City Development Program related to "Completion of balance works viz., Architectural finishes, Internal & External Electrical, Plumbing & Sanitary fixtures, Firefighting provisions, Lifts, DG, HVAC, Security Systems, External Development & Landscaping etc., for Housing of Gazetted Officers Type-I & II and Class IV Officials consisting of a total of 1440 Apartment units in 14 towers of (S+12) Floors Pattern with a BUA of 27,24,080 Sft with Sub-structure, R.C. wall Super Structure using Shear Wall technique and Aluminum Form work in Amaravati Govt., Complex, Andhra Pradesh on Lumpsum Contract (% percentage tender) System with the DLP of 2 years". **Est. Cost - Rs.594.54 Crores**
2	NIT No. 111/ PROC/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/15/ 2024-HB, Dated. 22.03.2025	WORLD BANK & ADB financed Amaravati Capital City Development Program related to "Completion of Balance works in External Infra Development viz., Providing Water Supply, Underground Sewerage System, Storm Water Drainage System, Street Lighting, Internal Roads, External Electrical, Plumbing and Sanitary Systems, Firefighting Systems, HVAC Systems, Building Security Systems, Landscaping etc., for 1440 nos. multi-storied apartment quarters in 14 towers of (S+12) floors pattern buildings for Gazetted Officers Type-I & Type-II and Group-D Officials near Nelapadu, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh on Lumpsum Contract (% percentage tender) System with the DLP of 2 years". **Est. Cost - Rs.226.26 Crores**
3	NIT No. 112/ PROC/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/19/ 2024-HB, Dated. 22.03.2025	WORLD BANK & ADB financed Amaravati Capital City Development Program related to "Completion of Balance works, Viz., Architectural finishes (Excluding Internal Wardrobes), Internal and external electrical, plumbing and sanitary fixtures, firefighting provisions, lifts, DG sets, HVAC Systems, Building security systems, internal roads, Street lighting etc., for multi storied quarters of 1140 apartment units in 12 towers of S+12 floors pattern buildings for Housing of Non-Gazetted officers near Nelapadu, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh on Lump sum Contract (% tender) including Defect Liability of 2 years". **Est. Cost - Rs.607.50 Crores**
4	NIT No. 113/ PROC/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/20/ 2024-HB, Dated. 22.03.2025	WORLD BANK & ADB financed Amaravati Capital City Development Program related to "Completion of Balance works, Viz., Architectural finishes, Internal and external electrical, plumbing and sanitary fixtures, firefighting provisions, lifts, DG sets, HVAC Systems, Building security systems, internal roads, Street lighting, (Including Internal Wardrobes, Podium Hardscaping, Landscaping for 21 Towers) etc., for multi storied quarters of 855 apartment units in 9 towers of S+12 floors pattern buildings for Housing of Non gazette officers near Nelapadu, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh on Lump sum Contract (% tender) including Defect Liability of 2 years". **Est. Cost - Rs.594.36 Crores**

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **24.03.2025 to 15.04.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **15.04.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening **15.04.2025 @16.00 Hrs.** For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in.**

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time

Angela Davis

DELIMITATION: INDIA NEEDS MORE MLAs, NOT MPs

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

ALL the world's a stage, said the bard. And all politics is essentially a live audition. The rhetoric ricocheting in public space is designed to amass attention and allegiance. Leaders audition with utterances for a role within the party and/or for touch-screen devotees. Parties script screenplays for a larger share of the electoral market.

The din of decibels in public discourse over the process of delimitation illustrates the pattern. The issue is about inclusion and representation of people, but the imagery unravelling on screens in living rooms suggests a prismatic, partisan north-south divide and the electors are simply herded between binary arguments of nationalism and separatism.

Shorn of jargon, delimitation is the process of redrawing constituencies to reflect the ideal ratio of elected representatives and population. India's governance architecture—the number of MPs, MLAs and representatives in local bodies—has been frozen with the 1971 census numbers and comes up for review in 2026, to be based on the latest census.

This weekend, chief ministers and opposition leaders met in Chennai at the invitation of Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M K Stalin to form a joint action committee for fair representation. At the current population of 1.4 billion, it is estimated that the number of seats in the Lok Sabha would touch 753, with the number seats in Uttar Pradesh rising from 80 to 143 and in Bihar from 40 to 79. The fear is that the 'north' with its higher population will benefit, and the 'south' will be penalised for success in population control. Underlying these concerns is the fear of being outnumbered in the national power matrix.

Meanwhile, the sovereign in this democracy—that is, the voters—are rendered mute spectators. The question that begs to be asked is whether India needs more MPs at all. The thesis of more MPs translating into better representation and outcomes merits interrogation. Malkajgiri in Telangana has the largest number of voters—around 3 million—with a per capita income of ₹2.95 lakh, which is well above the national average. Contrast this with a constituency with a better population-MP ratio in any large state.

Clearly, the promise of prosperity depends on the quality of governance in the state. To appreciate this, consult the structure of governance in Schedule 7 of the Constitution. Every issue that haunts Indians is largely in the domain of state governments. Take allocations in the Union budget—the largest ministries with the largest allocations are all state subjects. To paraphrase the late N T Rama Rao, every inch of the nation is administered by the state and the Centre is a conceptual abstraction.

It is true Indians need better representation to hold governments accountable. The question is whether this representation has to be in parliament or in the states. The power to deliver basic services like health, education, security, power and water are vested with states. Consider the landscape of expenditure. In 2023-24, state governments spent ₹57 lakh crore and the Centre ₹45 lakh crore. Land and labour reforms—critical for job creation—are pending with state governments. The bulk of the 69,233 compliances enterprises are burdened with are in the domain of states.

What is the global experience across unitary and federal systems? The US House of Representatives has been frozen at 435 members for over a century—from one representative for every 209,447 people in 1910 to one for every 747,184 last year. The number of MPs in France has been at 577 since 1986. The UK parliament had 658 MPs in 1796, and post-tweaks hosts 650 seats since the 1980s. The correlation between representation and betterment is scarcely linear.

Sure, Indians deserve better representation. Last week, I asked a group of informed CEOs if any of them had seen their MP. One hand went up. In Pune, successive MPs have neglected new areas such as Baner and failed for 20 years to get the city its airport.

How has the cohort of 543 MPs performed? Here are some questions. When did the Lok Sabha last debate why India has over 5 crore cases pending in courts? Or why the Union government is the biggest litigant, with 7.2 lakh cases? Why is there no clarity on when the census will be held? Or why 3,894 census towns are tagged neither urban nor rural?

Indians deserve better political representation and this can be structured in three phases. To start with, transfer form, funds and functions (the Finance Commission can do it) to the third tier of governance. India's urban landscape, home to taxpayers, suffers from issues ranging from water scarcity and mobility to housing and poor air quality. The promise of last-mile governance embedded in the 73rd and 74th amendments—grounded for three decades—must be revived. The second phase would be the expansion of the number of MLAs across states to improve responsiveness. Finally, initiate a uniform 33 percent enhancement in the number of MPs to accommodate the promise of 33 percent reservation for women.

Context is critical in politics and policy. The crux is in the framing of the issue. India's economic growth is propelled by states in the south and the west—indeed, 31 percent of India's GDP in 2023-24 came from the southern states. It is therefore critical—particularly in the light of global uncertainties and challenges—that the balance of power is not disturbed for short-term political gains. This calls for a national consensus, not factional confrontation.

HOW NOT TO FRAME WORK-HOURS DEBATE

OPINION

K M CHANDRASEKHAR
Former Cabinet Secretary and author of *As Good as My Word: A Memoir*
(kmchandrasekhar@gmail.com)

A rather intriguing controversy has blown up in recent months regarding the number of hours each person should work for the benefit of the country and their own well-being. It began with N R Narayana Murthy, the doyen of the Indian IT industry, proclaiming that everyone must work 70 hours a week. He had made similar statements earlier. In October 2023, he stated, "I request that our youngsters must say, 'This is my country. I'd like to work 70 hours a week.'" He obviously believes that anyone who works as he did—from 6:20 in the morning to 8 at night—would create more institutions like Infosys in the country.

Social media, for the most part, did not react kindly to his remarks. One Reddit user commented, "The man has equity in his company. Its success is his success. If you want your employees to work similar hours, then they need similar incentives—give them equity in the company or pay them for the additional hours." Another pointed out that shopkeepers, petrol station operators and others often work well beyond 70 hours, earning far less than he does.

During the Kilachand Memorial Lecture in Mumbai, Murthy partly retracted his statement. He said, "These are not issues that should be discussed and debated. These are issues that one can introspect on, one can ingest, and one can come to some conclusion." He then talked of "compassionate capitalism" and the necessity of respecting individual preferences.

S N Subrahmanyan, chairman of Larsen and Toubro, took it a step further than Murthy, suggesting working 90 hours a week, even on Sundays, saying, "If you go to the office and work on Sundays, you can escape looking at your wife. She will also be spared the onerous task of looking at you."

My friend and colleague, the high-flying Amitabh Kant, also expressed similar views at another ideas summit, stating, "I strongly believe in hard work. Indians must work hard, whether it's 80 hours or 90 hours a week. If your ambition is to move from a $4-trillion economy to a $30-trillion one, you can't do it through entertainment or by following the views of some film stars."

AFP

I have my own opinions regarding the $30-trillion economy. An Oxfam report titled '*Survival of the Richest: The India Story*' highlights significant income inequality in India. The wealthiest 1 percent now own more than 40 percent of the country's total wealth, while the bottom 50 percent hold just 3 percent. While Oxfam may not be very popular in India, its data cannot be dismissed, as several other reports corroborate its claim.

If our GDP rises to $30 trillion while most of it goes to a few billionaires, why should ordinary people work 80 to 90 hours to achieve this end? Achieving a higher GDP in terms of US dollars can never be the sole objective of good governance. The welfare of a country cannot be measured solely in terms of GDP. It encompasses a range of factors including reducing inequality, creating jobs, and improving health and education—in short, focusing on human welfare and happiness.

By prioritising GDP as a measure of growth, we risk making disastrous policy mistakes. The assumption that a country becomes happier as the rich get richer is fundamentally flawed and will invariably lead the government into policies that favour the wealthy in the hope that some of this wealth will 'trickle down' to the middle class and the poor.

This year's national budget is itself an acknowledgement of the need to change direction. By making the rich richer, we risk reducing domestic demand, resulting in billionaires either leaving the country or investing their wealth elsewhere as domestic demand declines. The talk of trillions of dollars is but a mirage that the people of India should firmly reject.

Another issue relevant to working hours is the level of unemployment in India. The unemployment rate is currently around 8 percent, but youth unemployment is considerably higher at about 16 percent. For graduates, this figure climbs to 29 percent. Though these figures are alarming, they likely underestimate the true extent of the problem.

As Professor Rayaprolu Nagaraj, formerly of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, stated, "There are three categories of jobs: one, regular wage salaried workers; two, casual labourers paid for what they do; and three, self-employed individuals such as someone who opens a tea stall in front of their house because they have no other job. This is, in fact, disguised employment. When you say unemployment has declined, the truth is that self-employment has increased. While self-employment has risen, regular and casual employment has declined. The fact is, there are not enough jobs in the market."

When unemployment is high and jobless growth prevails, does it make sense to exhort people to work 70-90 hours a week? The government should instead prioritise encouraging industries to create more jobs. The government, having long been a proponent of the trickle-down theory of wealth creation, has itself grown frustrated with the lack of investment. Nirmala Sitharaman remarked in 2022, "Since 2019, I have been hearing that industry doesn't find [conditions] conducive, so I reduced the corporate tax rate... I would like to know from Indian industry why they are hesitant [to invest]?"

Ultimately, what the country needs is more investment in job-generating sectors by the corporate sector. GDP or per-capita GDP is not inherently meaningful. We need more jobs, less inequality, and greater prosperity for all levels of society. The challenge lies not with workers who do not work hard enough, but with industries failing to invest adequately and thereby create prosperity for everyone.

The country will not become viksit by employees avoiding their spouses on Sundays, but through more jobs, increased incomes, greater well-being and a better understanding of the forces of demand and supply. Let our objective be happiness for all, not merely GDP in trillions of dollars.

Psychologist Robert Puff states in *Meditation for Modern Life*, "It's really all about work-life balance. If we achieve that balance, whether today is our last day or we live for a hundred years, we can look back and say, 'That was a good life'."

(Views are personal)

THE NEED TO PRESERVE SACRED GROVES

OPINION

NANDITHA KRISHNA
Historian, environmentalist and writer based in Chennai

IN December 2024, the Supreme Court directed the Rajasthan government to map, identify and formally notify orans or sacred groves as 'deemed forests'. It recommended a nationwide policy for their protection and management by the ministry of environment, forest and climate change by being designated as 'community reserves' under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. The court stressed the importance of mapping sacred groves across the country, emphasising that they are not just tracts of land but areas of immense ecological and cultural significance.

Sacred groves are areas of ecological significance where local communities have traditionally protected floral and faunal diversity for their religious, cultural and ecological significance. They play a vital role in conserving biodiversity and wildlife, and are often the last refuge for the endemic species in a region, including for medicinal plants. The vegetation improves soil quality, prevents erosion and recharges aquifers, thereby meeting local water requirements too. Hunting and logging are generally prohibited within them.

They are patches of natural vegetation that can be just a few trees or forests covering several acres. Each state has its own name for such groves—from *bani* in Kashmir to *kovilkaadu* in Tamil Nadu, and *kaavu* in Kerala, *deovan* in Maharashtra to *gumpa* in Arunachal Pradesh.

They can be sorted into three broad categories—traditional ones treated as the home of a local deity and represented by an elementary symbol, temple groves created around a shrine, and those around burial or cremation grounds. Those dedicated to folk deities are perhaps the most common. Such deities include Amman and Ayyanaar in Tamil Nadu, Sarpa in Kerala, and Waghdeo in Maharashtra.

The degree of sanctity accorded varies from one grove to another. In some forests, even the dry foliage and fallen fruits are not touched. People believe that any disturbance would offend the local deity, causing disease, calamities or crop failures. For example, the Garo and Khasi tribes of northeastern India completely prohibit any human interference in their sacred groves. Elsewhere, deadwood or dried leaves may be picked up, but a live tree or its branches can never be cut. The Gonds of central India prohibit the cutting of a tree, but allow its fallen parts to be used.

It's said the *Aranyakas*—philosophical treatises grouped under the word for 'belonging to the wilderness'—were composed in forests before river Saraswati dried up and people from the region moved eastwards. The leftover patches of forest were protected by the local people. In the 15th century, Guru Jambheshwar founded the Bishnoi movement that prioritises protection of trees and animals. Thus, the orans (a cognate of *aranya*) of Thar are pockets of biodiversity in the desert.

Sacred groves are found all over the country, but are abundant especially along the Western Ghats in Kerala and Karnataka, and the forests of northeast India. Although there has been no comprehensive estimate of their numbers across India, Chennai's CPR Environmental Education Centre has documented over 10,000 sacred groves so far as part of its documentation of India's ecological heritage. Experts estimate the actual number could be in the range of 100,000-150,000.

Sacred groves—patches of vegetation that are revered—can be of immense ecological and cultural significance. The Supreme Court wants a plan to map and manage them. History shows they are better preserved by local communities linked to them

The threats to the groves vary from one region to another, and even from one grove to another. But the most common ones are the disappearance of traditional belief systems, rapid urbanisation and developmental interventions such as building roads, railway tracks, dams and commercial forestry. Encroachment has led to the shrinkage of some of the largest groves. Many suffer from the transformation of primitive forms of nature worship into formal temple worship. Invasion by exotic weeds such as Eupatorium odoratum, Lantana camara and Prosopis juliflora are another serious concern. Finally, pressures from increasing livestock grazing and fuelwood collection threaten their survival.

The CPR Environmental Education Centre has restored 52 sacred groves and nurtured a new one since the early 1990s. Restoring groves was difficult. Elders had to be consulted on what trees were once found there, but the memories were still fresh and wastelands soon became thick forests. Birds and some wildlife returned. The lakes filled up and groundwater levels went up. All this was possible because the local people remembered that there was once a magical forest that belonged to a village deity who was regarded their *kuladeivam* or even ancestor. And they joined hands to restore and protect it.

Is the Supreme Court's recommendation for the environment ministry to develop a comprehensive policy to protect and manage sacred groves necessary? Sacred groves were protected for millenniums by local communities. Once governments enter, they usually claim ownership of the land, construct large temples over small shrines, and build roads through groves—indiscriminately destroying ancient trees in the process. Local wildlife shrinks or dies, while birds fly away depriving the land of rich *guano*. I have seen rich forests becoming wastelands in this manner.

Groves considered sacred once dotted the entire world. Today, they are restricted to Asia and Africa. Let's protect the ones that are left. Not through big governments, but through local communities that are, or once were, closely connected to them.

QUOTE CORNER

My arrest was a direct consequence of exercising my right to free speech as I advocated for a free Palestine and an end to the genocide in Gaza... I have always believed that my duty is not only to liberate myself from the oppressor, but also to liberate my oppressors from their hatred and fear.

Mahmoud Khalil, Columbia University student and green-card holder detained by US immigration authorities, in a letter dictated to family

We can fully realise what Canada is, an energy superpower. We are going to get stronger while those who take trade actions get weaker.

Mark Carney, Canadian prime minister, soon after taking charge

You know what I don't like about Pep Guardiola? His arrogance... He has done a lot of harm to football. Because everyone spent 10 years trying to copy him.

Fabio Capello, who had coached the Manchester City manager at Roma

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Voters' woes

Ref: *Democracy dies in the darkness of dubious lists* (Mar 22). It was a candid and timely piece. Even enrolment and verification camps organised by the Election Commission don't attract people. True to the proverbial saying, 'It takes at least two to tango', all sides are responsible for this dismal state of affairs. In this digitalised age, the authorities should be able to provide facilities online to resolve issues regarding voters' list without hassle.

R Sampath, Chennai

Caesar's wife

Ref: *In-house enquiry about Delhi HC judge* (Mar 22). There was one report of a huge pile of cash found in the house of a Delhi High Court judge. Another said a fire service chief denied the report. Yet another report said that the Supreme Court collegium recommended transferring the judge to Allahabad. If those at the helm think that they could save the reputation of the judiciary by hushing things up, they are sadly mistaken. It is better to punish the guilty and come clean. Caesar's wife must be above suspicion.

P G Moorthy, Thiruvananthapuram

Reform judiciary

Given the serious allegations against the Delhi High Court judge, doesn't transferring him amount to a slap on the face of justice? Are those sitting on the bench above the law? The biggest problem is in the collegium system—a dark pit where transparency and accountability are absent. The National Judicial Appointments Commission was a golden opportunity for increasing transparency, which the Supreme Court rejected. Reform or lose trust—the decision now rests with the judiciary.

R K Jain Arijeet, Barwani

Needless battle

Ref: *Let's focus on current grave issues than a centuries-old grave* (Mar 21). The Nagpur violence was totally uncalled for. The Hindutva movement is waging a needless cultural war on India's Islamic past at a time when many important issues like rising prices and growing unemployment warrant attention. Let's not forget that the Mughals also exerted significant influence on Indian art, architecture, language and cuisine.

R Sivakumar, Chennai

Unified governance

Ref: *From Dec, all MHA missives in mother tongue of recipient* (Mar 22). The importance of strong Centre-state relations has never been more critical. The home ministry directive highlights the significance of linguistic inclusivity. Meanwhile, tensions persist between the Centre and Tamil Nadu over key issues such as the three-language formula. It underscores the need for a unified approach.

P V Prakash, Mumbai

Sunita's odyssey

Ref: *Joy all around as Sunita's back home* (Mar 20). Indians prayed for Sunita Williams' safe return when glitches developed in the rescue craft more than once. It was amusing to hear Sunita's narration of her daily routine in the space station with scientific clarity in almost everything.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Pension burden

It's amusing to note that electricity rates need to be increased to meet pension and gratuity commitments of Karnataka's power boards. Paying employees is a basic responsibility of the employer and putting it on the head of consumers is utterly atrocious. If allowed, similar things will happen in other service agencies also. The government should immediately look into it.

V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Harvest rainwater

The unseasonal rains occuring around the country is going waste. The people and government should store the rainwater. Every new house should find a place for rain harvesting structures and building plan approvals should accord importance to this.

A Kaja Nazimudeen, Eruvadi

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda
Bihar has always illuminated the world with light of knowledge, philosophy & spirituality... the NDA is committed to holistic development and welfare of Bihar and its people

Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge
In 2014, the BJP made 10 promises to make India a "global manufacturing hub"... the situation has worsened, with massive decline of employment in manufacturing

Sharad Pawar @PawarSpeaks
Even today, people struggle to get clean drinking water. This is a grave concern for our future... Water resources are a gift of nature! Let us resolve to protect them.

'EVERYTHING I DO, I DO IT FOR ATHLETES, INDIAN SPORTS'

I want to be remembered as PT Usha, my story is not yet finished, says IOA chief at Delhi Dialogue

SHEKHAR YADAV / PARVEEN NEGI

APART from being a sports administrator, the 'Golden girl' of Indian athletics is also a Rajya Sabha MP. At the 20th edition of Delhi Dialogue, she emphasises the importance of zero tolerance on doping, and reflects on the highs and lows of her illustrious career. **Excerpts**:

Jayanth Jacob: Can you sum up your tenure at IOA president? Your term has been seen quite controversial, especially in the last year or so. Since January 2024, when the Chief Executive Officer was appointed, things were not exactly going your way.
My tenure is an unwavering focus on strengthening Indian sports. Since taking over, my priority has always been to support our athletes, enhance governance structures, and bring professionalism to IOA. There have been challenges as is the case with any leadership role.

The CEO appointment was done as per the established procedures and in line with the IOA Constitution and the directives set forth by IOC/Justice (Retd) Nageswara Rao (appointed by the Supreme Court to amend the IOA Constitution). Differences of opinion are natural in any organisation, but my intent has always been to act in the best interest of sports.

While 12 Executive Council members have opposed the nomination and continue to block the appointment, my approach has been to work in a manner that upholds the integrity and growth of sports.

Jayanth Jacob: Will it affect 2036 Olympics bid process?
Our objective is to reinforce the foundations of sports governance. Therefore, the need to ratify the CEO appointment and nominated by the three-member Nomination Committee as laid down in IOA Constitution is very important.

A well-structured sports ecosystem is essential not only for hosting an event of such magnitude, but also for elevating our stature at the world arena. By prioritising reforms and accountability in IOA and National Sports Federations, we aim to build an efficient sports administration that meets international standards.

The bidding process is an extensive endeavour that requires meticulous planning, long-term commitment, and a collective vision. As part of our preparation, we are working to enhance infra and streamline administrative processes. Strengthening athlete development programmes, investing in world-class training facilities, and ensuring seamless coordination among stakeholders will make us a strong contender for hosting the Games.

The IOA remains steadfast in its commitment to collaboration with all stakeholders. We aim to not only enhance the experience of our athletes, but also elevate our credibility in the global Olympic movement. Our focus extends beyond just securing the Olympic bid—it is about laying the groundwork for a sustainable sporting future for generations to come.

Jayanth Jacob: In the last year and half, there have been no executive committee meetings.
My colleagues have deliberately ensured that no official recordings of discussions take place. This lack of transparency allows them to manipulate the minutes of meetings at their convenience either by altering key decisions post-facto or by misrepresenting what was discussed and agreed upon. Also, in the absence of a clear and accountable record, they retain the ability to retract or modify their own positions as an afterthought, thereby undermining the integrity of decision-making within the organisation.

Such practices are fundamentally undemocratic and counter to good governance. Any attempt to suppress records, evade accountability, or rewrite decisions after they have been made not only weakens the credibility of the institution but also creates an environment of distrust.

At the heart of everything I do is my commitment to the athletes and to sporting aspirations. Despite the challenges, we made progress in securing sponsorships, strengthening athlete welfare initiatives, and ensuring the best preparations for the Paris 2024 Olympic. We also ensured a very successful National Games 2025 at Uttarakhand. That, for me, is the true measure of our success.

Suchitra Kalyan Mohanty: What would you want to be remembered as?
I want to be known as P T Usha. People are recognising me, people are taking my name even now. That is a big a word or reward that I got from my sports. That is why I always like to be known as golden girl.

Santwana Bhattacharya: What is your most memorable moment from the track?
When I won four gold medals in 1986 Seoul Asian games (out of total five), it lifted the position of my country from 14th position to the 4th position in medal tally.

Parvez Sultan: How crucial is good governance for any sport to prosper?
Good governance is the foundation of any sport's growth and success. Transparency, accountability, and efficiency in administration ensure that athletes receive the support they need while also maintaining the integrity of the sport. Without good governance, issues such as mismanagement, lack of financial oversight, and unfair selection processes can hinder the development of athletes and the sport itself. As a former athlete, I have always believed that a well-structured and ethical sporting ecosystem creates champions and inspires the next generation.

Santwana Bhattacharya: What did you feel when you missed that bronze by one hundredth of a second in 1984 Olympics?
I have a different story. Now athletes go to Europe to get international exposure. For me, before going to the LA Olympics, I could run 400 metre hurdles only twice in India. That too in competitions where I had a big lead. In a pre-Olympic event, I could beat American favourite Judy Brown. In the semi-final I ran with Brown and came first. That gave me confidence. In the finals, my concentration was on my speed. That is I should cover the first hurdle in 6.2 seconds and keep at it. There is no psychologist with me. I did have a very good start. But we were called back to our blocks for a restart. There was no need for that. That moment I was anxious. Had I got five more minutes, I could have overcome it.

Santwana Bhattacharya: Not in similar manner though, but isn't it ironical that something happened similar to Vinesh Phogat in the last Olympics after being sure of a medal?
I was so happy that she was going to get gold. So when I got off from my bed, I got the message that something had happened with regard to her weight. I was with her throughout. We also took up the matter with World Wrestling Federation, but nothing came out. It was sad.

Mayank Singh: You have always been a staunch advocate of anti-doping?
Doping undermines the hard work of honest athletes. We must continue to educate and support our athletes in understanding the risks of doping and strengthen testing mechanisms. India has had its fair share of challenges, including a major controversy in Indian weightlifting ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

The use of performance-enhancing drugs undermines fair competition and can have severe health consequences for athletes. There is an urgent need to implement robust anti-doping measures that include not only increased testing but also advancements in detection technologies. Cutting-edge scientific methods, such as biological passports and AI-driven analytical tools, must be leveraged to identify doping practices more effectively.

Ifrah Mufti: Which role you like most — an athlete, a sports administrator or MP?
Every role has its own set of challenges and responsibilities. As an athlete, my focus was on training, discipline, and achieving excellence on the track. It was physically demanding, but I had control over my own performance.

As MP and sports administrator, the challenges are different. The responsibility is broader as I am now working to shape policies, improve the sporting ecosystem, and address the concerns of athletes at a national level. It requires navigating administrative frameworks, ensuring the right support structures are in place, and advocating for changes that benefit the sporting community.

If I had to pick the most challenging role, I would say sports administration. Bringing meaningful change in policies, infrastructure, and athlete welfare takes time and teamwork.

Santwana Bhattacharya: Why are most sports bodies headed by politicians?
Sports administration has traditionally seen significant involvement from politicians due to various factors, including their influence in securing funding, infrastructure development, and policymaking. However, it is essential to strike a balance where experienced administrators, former athletes, and professionals also play a key role in shaping the future of Indian sports.

Over the years, we have seen a positive shift, with more sportspersons and professionals stepping into leadership roles within sports bodies. I believe that sports federations should be led by individuals who understand the needs of the athletes and the nuances of high-performance sport.

Paramita Ghosh: What about your biopic? It was said Katrina Kaif would do it. Then she is also old now?
It is good that my biopic has not come earlier because when you see the biopic it has to cover every story and it cannot be done in within two hours. My story is not yet finished. Then they also need to find someone who can actually run. Else what would people think?

SUNITA WILLIAMS & BARRY WILMORE

THEY JOURNEY BACK HOME

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA

SOURAV ROY

NEWSMAKER

AT 3:30 am on March 19, the inky predawn skies over the Gulf of Mexico were pierced by the fiery re-entry of SpaceX's Dragon capsule. Inside, NASA astronauts Sunita "Suni" Williams and Barry "Butch" Wilmore, along with their crewmates, were returning to Earth after an unexpected nine-month sojourn aboard the International Space Station. The capsule's parachutes deployed flawlessly, and with a gentle splash, they touched down, marking the end of a mission that tested the limits of human endurance.

Originally slated for a brief eight-day mission beginning on June 5 last year, Williams and Wilmore's stay aboard the ISS was extended due to unforeseen technical challenges. A series of propulsion failures and helium leaks in Boeing's Starliner capsule rendered it unsafe for their return, necessitating prolonged habitation in the microgravity environment. This extension transformed their mission into a testament to human resilience and complexities inherent in space exploration. By the time of their splashdown off the coast of Tallahassee in the Florida Panhandle, Williams and Wilmore had orbited the Earth 45,676 times and traveled 195 million kilometers. While their trip didn't outlast the endurance feats of Russian cosmonauts Valeri Polyakov, who spent 437 days on the Mir space station in 1994, or Sergei Avdeyev's 379 days in 1998-1999, it was still extraordinary. Williams etched her name in history by eclipsing Peggy Whitson's record for the most space-walking time by a female astronaut, amassing an impressive 62 hours and six minutes during the mission.

Sunita Williams (58) is no stranger to the challenges of spaceflight. Born to an Indian-American father and a Slovene-American mother, Williams carved a path that led her from US Naval Academy to the stars. She served as a Navy helicopter pilot before joining NASA in 1998. Williams has accumulated over 321 days in space and conducted seven spacewalks.

Barry Wilmore (61), hails from Mount Juliet, Tennessee. A former Navy test pilot with over 8,000 flight hours, Wilmore joined NASA in 2000. He had piloted the Space Shuttle Atlantis in 2009 and commanded the ISS during a six-month mission in 2014.

The unexpected extension of their mission subjected Williams and Wilmore to the rigors of long-duration spaceflight. Prolonged exposure to microgravity can lead to muscle atrophy, bone density loss, and fluid redistribution, which affects vision and cardiovascular health. To mitigate these effects, astronauts adhere to rigorous daily exercise regimens while aboard the ISS. Despite these measures, returning to Earth's gravity presents challenges.

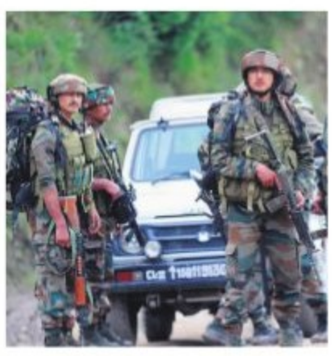
Following their return, Williams and Wilmore commenced a 45-day rehabilitation program designed to address the physiological changes incurred during their extended mission. This program includes physical therapy to rebuild muscle strength and bone density, as well as exercises to recalibrate their vestibular systems, which are responsible for balance and spatial orientation. Despite the challenges, both astronauts expressed gratitude and optimism. Wilmore, known for his deep faith, looked forward to reuniting with his church community and savoring a homemade pecan pie prepared by his daughter.

Their prolonged mission garnered attention beyond the scientific community. President Donald Trump humorously offered to personally compensate the astronauts for their extended stay. The experiences of Williams and Wilmore provide valuable insights into the challenges of long-duration spaceflight, informing future missions to Mars and beyond. Their resilience and adaptability serve as a testament to human potential and the enduring spirit of exploration. As they reintegrate into life on Earth, their journey continues to inspire, reminding us of the wonders that lie beyond our world and the dedication required to reach them.

In the words of Wilmore, "Spaceflight is a constant reminder that while we reach for the stars, it's the bonds we share on Earth that truly define our journey."

Future analysis and ops group raised

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi



THE Indian military establishment has raised a new group as part of a structural reorganisation exercise to keep an eye on the new technologies across the globe. "The Future Analysis and Operations Group (FAOG) has been created as part of the Headquarters (HQ) Integrated Defence Staff with a dedicated manpower," said a source in the Ministry of Defence.

The HQ IDS works as a point organisation for jointmanship in the MoD which integrates policy, doctrine, war fighting and procurement of arms and equipment. "The stimulus for FAOG, under the reorganisation exercise, are the changes in warfare and lessons drawn from the recent wars like the Russia-Ukraine, Hamas-Israel, Azerbaijan-Armenia, etc, and a structure was created having the direction to recommend," the source said.

A direction was sent to all the services to create a similar setup on modern warfare in their structures and allocate resources. The FAOG started functioning about six months back and a Future Warfare Fund was created to "join hands with the agencies, think tanks, academics, research institutes and specialists for their recommendation, direction and guidance to empower FAOG."

The FAOG will club the ideas from the services and build synergy. Ultimately, the work is expected to assist with required, ""reorientation, re-ORBATing and re-equipping the forces." Re-ORBATting refers to the process of reorganising and restructuring military forces, often involving changes to their order of battle (ORBAT), which is a list of the units and their capabilities. The FAOG, under the HQ IDS, has come up with a "clear responsibility and accountability fixed."

The HQ IDS was raised on October 1, 2001 to provide an institutional framework for managing defence at a higher level, and integrate the three Services and other relevant elements in the quest of credible and comprehensive national power. India's war-fighting machinery/organisations are being reorganised to meet the needs of the technology-led modern warfare. To enumerate reorganisation from the top, the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be eventually reset into Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs). Presently the three services fight the war independently with the geographical area being looked after by their 17 Commands (seven each of the Army and Air Force and three of Navy).

The reorganization, leading eventually to the ITCs, is being executed in multiple ways and at various levels. Training, promotion, posting and financial planning are just a few of them.

Boosting military ties focus of India-Italy meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE 13th edition of the India-Italy Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was successfully organised on March 20 and 21 in Rome, the Ministry of Defence said on Saturday.

The discussions were focused on identifying new avenues to expand the scope of bilateral military-focused cooperation, it said. Key agenda points included enhanced exchange programmes, capability-development efforts and strengthening collaboration between the Indian and Italian armed forces.

The ties between the two nations are reportedly growing stronger. And the MCG serves as a key institutional mechanism to enhance defence cooperation between the armed forces of the two nations, fostering stronger military-to-military engagements.

Alert to loco pilots as railways ramps up AI for safety of elephants on tracks

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

THE Indian Railways has introduced an innovative artificial intelligence-driven measure to safeguard elephants and other wildlife from being struck by moving trains.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently informed the Rajya Sabha about the system. "An AI-enabled intrusion detection system (IDS) identifies the presence of elephants and other wildlife on railway tracks using distributed acoustic sensors (DAS) and promptly alerts loco pilots about their close proximity."

Vaishnaw said, emphasising the railways' commitment to protecting wildlife. "The system components include optical fibre, hardware, and pre-installed signatures of elephant locations. The system alerts loco pilots, station masters, and the control room about the movement of elephants near tracks, enabling timely preventive action," the minister informed the House.

According to the railway ministry data, the IDS is currently operational over 141 km of tracks in "critical and highly vulnerable" locations identified by the forest department in the Northeast Frontier Railway. He highlighted that the device has proven effective in protecting elephants.

"The works of IDS have been sanctioned for identified corridors spanning a total of 1,158 km of rail routes, with an estimated expenditure of ₹208 crore. The IDS will cover forest areas under the jurisdiction of Northern Railway, North Frontier Railway, ECOR, SR, SER, NER, WR, and East Central Railway," the minister said. He also mentioned that installation of the system is underway in ECOR, covering 349.4 km, Southern Railway (SR) with 55.58 km, and NER with 36 km.

The minister noted that if any train-hit elephant incident occurs within any zone, the zonal railway investigates the matter in coordination with the forest department and takes immediate action, including imposing speed restrictions.

"The construction of underpasses and ramps for elephant movement at identified locations is also being carried out to ensure wildlife safety," Vaishnaw said.

Innovative Honey Bee Buzzer devices are also being deployed along railway tracks to deter elephants and other wild animals, officials said. "The sound produced by this device acts as a repellent, moving elephants away from railway tracks," an official said, adding that thermal vision cameras are also being tried to detect wildlife on straight tracks during night time or poor visibility, which alerts approaching train loco pilots.

DRASTIC STEP

A man in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district died by suicide during an Instagram live session, blaming his wife and mother-in-law. The police have arrested the two women, an official said on Saturday.

8 HOUSES GUTTED IN A BLAZE IN JAMMU & KASHMIR'S SRINAGAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	37	23	Mumbai	34	26
Bhopal	33	18	Panaji	33	25
Jaipur	33	20	Patna	29	19
Amritsar	31	15	Lucknow	32	17
Chennai	31	28	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	28	22	Imphal	26	14
Srinagar	17	03	Chandigarh	31	14

Family of Col, ex-servicemen step up demand for CBI investigation

Hold protest outside Patiala DC office, seek transfer of SSP over assault by police officials

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE family of Army Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath, who was allegedly assaulted by police officials along with his son over parking, on Saturday started a dharna outside the office of Patiala deputy commissioner, demanding a CBI inquiry into the incident and transfer of Patiala SSP Nanak Singh. Ex-servicemen from all over the state joined the protest. The Congress and BJP have also come in support of the family.

"We demand that the CBI inquire into the incident and Patiala SSP Nanak Singh be transferred. If the government accepts both these demands, we will lift the dharna," Jaswinder Kaur, wife of Col Bath, said at the dharna site.

The incident had snowballed into a major controversy after the Colonel's wife Jasvinder accused the police of refusing to file an FIR on their complaint. Amid outrage, Punjab police went into damage control mode on Friday -- setting up an SIT, filing a fresh FIR based on the Army officer's statement and suspending 12 personnel allegedly involved in the episode.

Jaswinder Kaur, wife of Colonel Pushpinder Bath, addresses a protest organised outside the Patiala deputy commissioner's office on Saturday | PTI

Cops had refused to file FIR, says Colonel's wife

The incident had snowballed into a major controversy after the Colonel's wife Jaswinder accused the police of refusing to file an FIR on their complaint. Punjab police went into damage control mode, filing a fresh FIR based on the Army officer's statement and suspending 12 personnel.

Policemen started beating me up, says son

Colonel's son Angad Singh said, "As I tried to save my father, the policemen started beating me up. The allegations that we were drinking are false. Our medical report vindicates our stand." Patiala DC Preeti Yadav also met the colonel's wife and requested the protesters to end the dharna.

"The demand for registration of an FIR has been met. It is not a case of army versus police; it is the case of a citizen," Jaswinder said. "Now an auto driver has come forward as an witness and told us that my husband and son were thrashed by the police personnel," she said.

Colonel's son Angad Singh said, "As I tried to save my father, the policemen took me a few metres away and started beating me up. The allegations that we were drinking are false our; medical report vindicates our stand."

Patiala DC Preeti Yadav went to the dharna spot, met the colonel's wife and requested the protesters to end the dharna, assuring that justice will be done. But the family refused.

Former Patiala MP and BJP leader Preneet Kaur was also present in the dharna but not allowed to sit on dais with the family. She demanded inclusion of senior Army members in the SIT. " It is saddening to know how police officers brutally beat up an Army Colonel and his son. I urge the government to stop dragging its feet and deliver justice to the family," Preneet said.

Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring alleged that the AAP government had surpassed the BJP in "humiliating" soldiers and the farmers. "Save the jawan and save the kisan from Bhagwant Mann," he said.

Nitish comes under Oppn fire for his conduct during national anthem in Patna

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has come under Opposition fire following his 'erratic' behavior during the national anthem played at a sporting event in the state capital. CPI-ML (Liberation), an ally of RJD led grand alliance, hit out at Nitish, saying that he should resign as he was unable to run the state.

CPI-ML(Liberation) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said that the recent public utterances and conduct of the Nitish were sufficient to proof that he was no longer in a position to discharge his duties as the chief minister.

He also criticised the BJP for maintaining a silence over the health condition of the CM even though the saffron party had made it a big issue in Odisha.

"Everybody is aware of the health condition of Nitish except the PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah," Dipankar said.

Earlier, RJD pasted posters outside the residence of former Bihar CM Rabri Devi criticising Nitish for showing disrespect to the national anthem. The posters, featuring the words 'Nayak nahi khalnayak hoon main' (I am not a hero, I am a villain), aimed at expressing party's growing discontent with Nitish's actions.

RJD workers also burnt the effigies of the chief minister at district headquarters to vent their protest against the CM's erratic behaviour and causing disrespect to the national anthem in full public view.

The controversy erupted after a purported video went viral on social media, showing Nitish speaking and greeting while the national anthem played at an official function in the state capital on Thursday. The video caused a backlash, with many calling out the chief minister for disrespecting the national anthem.

A complaint petition was also filed in a Muzaffarpur court, seeking action against the chief minister for disrespecting the national anthem. The petition sought action under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita and the Prevention of Insult to the National Honour Act.

LUCKNOW DIARY

NAMITA BAJPAI

Our correspondent in Uttar Pradesh

namita.bajpai@newindianexpress.com

Congress overtures to Muslims ahead of polls

Is everything okay with Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance for UP polls in 2027? The question is doing rounds after the grand old party announced the names of its district and city presidents in the state. The party gave a lion's share of positions to Muslims, OBCs and Brahmins among upper castes. Before SP, under Mulayam Singh Yadav, Congress was the most preferred party for minorities. Now, the party has made an overture towards the community by appointing Muslims as heads of its 30 units. Among others, 35 are OBCs, 29 Brahmins. Other castes in the list are Dalits (15), Thakurs (12), Baniyas (7), Kayastha and tribals (two each) and Sikh (one).

RLD in talks with ally for cabinet expansion

Post Maha Kumbh, the RLD is having talks about cabinet expansion. And its choice of candidate may surprise its alliance partner BJP. If sources are to be believed, the Jayant Chaudhary-led outfit, which gets substantial minority support in polls, is likely to pitch its Thana Bhawan MLA Ashraf Ali Khan to be included in the ministry. Khan had defeated BJP's Suresh Rana, who was an accused in Muzaffarnagar riots. If Khan is included it would be the first time the BJP-led cabinet would have two Muslim ministers.

Journo turns table on digital crime fraudster

Amid all the clamoring around the digital arrests and caution served by the law-enforcing agencies, a Kanpur-based journalist turned the table on his prospective predator through his quick wit. He got a call early this month, with the caller claiming to be a CBI officer, informing him about his viral video showing him in a compromising position and seeking money to save him from legal action. He sought ₹3,000 from the caller for getting a piece of jewellery freed from a local shop where he had pawned it. He would pay him after selling it off, the caller was told. The caller fell into the trap and sent him the money.

Roads deserted, uneasy calm during Ranchi bandh against flyover

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

NORMAL life was put to stand still during the day-long bandh called by the tribal outfits against the construction of a flyover ramp near Sarna Sthla at Siramtoli in Ranchi. Vehicle movement was affected for several hours as the protesters blocked roads at various locations.

Public transportation was severely affected, with city buses and motorised and battery-operated auto-rickshaws remaining off the roads. Many commuters resorted to walking long distances in an attempt to reach their destinations.

The Ranchi-Lohardaga Road was also blocked near Titla Chowk in Ranchi. The protesters are demanding that a ramp of the flyover being constructed in Siram Toli be removed as it obstructs access to the religious site and could disturb its sanctity due to traffic movement.

About three lakh people from different places will reach the central Sarna Sthal at Sirmatoli with a procession on Sarhul and the construction of the ramp will cause inconvenience to the people coming to the procession, they said.

The agitators also had a scuffle with the police at various locations, including in Hinoo and Argora. The district administration, however, said that the bandh remained peaceful without any major incident. "Barring a few incidents of traffic jams and burning of tyres, no major incident was reported from any part of the city," said Ranchi Subdivisional Police Officer Utkarsh Gupta.

In the wake of the bandh, the police had also made strong security arrangements. Additional police personnel were deployed at all major squares and intersections to deal with the bandh supporters. Police personnel were also equipped with water cannons at all strategic locations. The bandh was also being monitored with CCTV cameras.

2 securitymen hurt in Maoist attack in J'khand

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

THE CRPF sub-inspector, who got injured in the IED blast with a jawan in the forest of Marangponga under Chotanagra police station in Chaibasa, succumbed to his injuries during treatment on Saturday. The sub-inspector, Sunil Kumar Mandal, of CRPF 193 Battalion was airlifted to Ranchi with the Head Constable Parth Pratim for better treatment.

Security forces were conducting a search operation on Saturday afternoon, during which, two security personnel were hit by an IED. "CRPF Sub-Inspector Sunil Kumar Mandal was martyred during treatment in the hospital on Saturday," said Chaibasa SP Ashutosh Shekhar.

Notably, several Maoist commanders are active with their squads in the Saranda forests of Chaibasa and have planted thousands of IEDs to check security forces enter into the jungles, due to which regular incidents of blasts are taking place during operations.

Security forces are continuously conducting anti-Maoist operations in the region and IEDs are being recovered almost every day. On Monday also, security forces had recovered an IED weighing 10kg.

5-member Raj panel against diktats of khap panchayats

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

THE Rajasthan High Court has constituted a five-member commission to investigate the activities of khap panchayats in a move to curb their negative influence.

The commission will visit areas where khap panchayats have been frequently reported to be active, particularly in western Rajasthan. This initiative follows a petition alleging that social boycotts and arbitrary penalties are being imposed in various parts of the state's desert region.

The commission, comprising four lawyers and one social worker, will conduct on-ground investigations and prepare a report on the issue. Acting as court commissioners, the members will visit multiple villages in western Rajasthan and submit their findings to the High Court by May 14, a member of the panel said.

The High Court took up the matter after hearing a petition filed by residents of Jalore and Nagaur districts. The petitioners' lawyer, Arjun Singh, informed the court that khap panchayats continue to interfere in many districts of western Rajasthan, issuing social boycott decisions and imposing fines without having any legal authority for such actions. Taking the issue seriously, the High Court directed the commission to investigate khap panchayat activities in the districts of Jodhpur, Pali, Barmer, Nagaur, Jaisalmer, and Jalore.

Commission member advocate Devkinandan Vyas said, "The High Court formed the commission to put an end to the arbitrary rulings of khap panchayats."

Other members of the commission include advocates Ramavtar Singh Chaudhary, Bhagirath Rai, and Shobha Prabhakar, and social worker Mahavir Kankaria.

Additionally, the superintendents of police of the districts concerned have been directed to assist the court commissioners and provide police protection during their visits. "The commission members will inspect various police stations, interact with village sarpanches, gram sevaks, government officials, and public representatives to gather information about local customs and practices," Vyas said.

A joint hearing on the petitions filed by Bhakaram from Jalore, Jetharam from Nagaur, and Pani Devi from Gotan was held on March 7 in the court of Justice Farzand Ali. Following this hearing, the High Court issued an order to form the commission.

Like in Haryana, caste-based panchayats wield significant influence in Rajasthan. Their controversial and often unlawful decisions have sparked debates over the years. Recently in Luni of Jodhpur district, a khap panchayat expelled a man and his family from society for marrying a woman from Madhya Pradesh. Subsequently, five panchayat members were arrested by the police in connection with the case.

"The formation of this commission marks a crucial step towards addressing the unlawful practices of khap panchayats and ensuring justice for affected individuals across Rajasthan," lawyer Singh said.

TWO TALES OF TRAGEDY

Gujarati man, daughter shot dead in Virginia

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

A father-daughter duo from Gujarat's Mehsana were shot dead at their shop in Accomack County, Virginia (US), sending shockwaves across the Indian community there.

The victims, Pradeepkumar Ratilal Patel (56) and his 24-year-old daughter, hailed from Kanoda village. Pradeepkumar died on the spot after a man stormed into their store and opened fire. His daughter succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment.

A swift police response led to the arrest of the suspect, identified as George Frazier Devon Wharton. However, the motive of the attack is yet to be ascertained. The authorities have launched a full-scale probe into the shooting.

The owner of the store, Patesh Patel, still trying to process the loss, shared, "My cousin's wife and her father were working at the store in the morning when a man suddenly entered and opened fire."

The incident comes just seven months after a Vadodara native, Mainank Patel, was gunned down in a random shooting by a minor in North Carolina, US. Though his wife had attempted to save his life, her best efforts were of no avail. Patel, who had lived in America for 18 years, was working as a gas station manager at the time.

Motive not known

The motive of the attack is yet to be ascertained. The authorities have launched a full-scale probe into the shooting. The incident comes just seven months after a Vadodara native, Mainank Patel, was gunned down in a random shooting by a minor in North Carolina, US.

NRI killed in Bihar for resisting loot attempt

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

A 36-year-old non-resident Indian (NRI) based in the US who had come to India for Holi celebrations was shot dead by some unidentified bike-borne criminals in Bihar's Vaishali district for resisting a robbery attempt on Friday.

The victim, identified as Anand Shankar alias Rahul, was en route to his native village, Buchauli Sakrauli, to oversee some repair work when the incident took place.

The assailants waylaid Shankar near Ufraul Dainipul and attempted to snatch a gold chain from him. When he resisted it, one of the criminals opened fire at him, causing grievous injuries.

The victim's mother, who was in tow, raised the alarm, and a huge crowd soon gathered on the scene. Shankar was rushed to a nearby hospital, from where he was referred to a private facility in Patna. But he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

The body of the deceased was handed over to the kin after a postmortem examination. The incident has sent shockwaves across the village. Efforts are on to arrest the suspects, a police officer added. A special police team has been formed under the leadership of Mahua sub-divisional police officer Kumari Durga Shakti to nab the culprits.

How it unfolded

- The victim was en route to his native village, Buchauli Sakrauli, to oversee some repair work when the incident took place
- The assailants waylaid Shankar near Ufraul Dainipul and attempted to snatch a gold chain from him
- When he resisted it, one of the criminals opened fire at him, causing grievous injuries. He was taken to a hospital, but he succumbed

Ghost vehicles used in transporting paddy to rice mills in ₹30 cr MP scam

ANURAAG SINGH @Bhopal

A probe has revealed a paddy scam worth over ₹30 crore in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. On the basis of the probe, 12 criminal cases have been lodged against 74 people, including 13 employees of the MP State Civil Supplies Corporation, 17 rice millers and 44 staff of cooperative societies which procured the paddy from farmers in 2024-25 on behalf of the government, officials said.

Jabalpur district collector Deepak Saxena said a fact-finding committee was constituted after BJP MLA Ajay Vishnoi flagged irregularities in paddy procurement, its lifting and transportation for inter-district milling to process it into rice before being made available through the public distribution system. The committee looked into complaints regarding transportation of paddy procured from farmers in 2024-25 in Jabalpur.

"We zeroed in on registration numbers of the vehicles shown as trucks that had made 614 trips to lift paddy and transport it to 18 rice mills across the state. We took the help of NH toll booths for online records of the paddy movement, besides checking GST portals and transport department real-time facts," said SDM Shivangi Verma, a member of the probe panel.

"The end results were shocking. Out of the 614 trips (shown in documents by the millers) that were made to transport the paddy to the mills, there were no factual records of 571 trips. This means over 92% of the trips were actually never made. Further enquiry revealed that at least 55 of the vehicles were cars and 252 were buses, tractors and pick-up vehicles. 44 vehicles were actually ghost vehicles," Verma said.

He said 86 cases have been detected where vehicles have been shown to have made trips between Jabalpur and Ujjain (to and fro distance of over 1000 kms) three to four times a day, which he said was impossible. "Cases have also been detected in which the same vehicles, shown in documents as moving with paddy between Jabalpur and Ujjain and Jabalpur and Mandla, were actually found to be operating south India, particularly Tamil Nadu," he said.

Collector Saxena said, "Of the ₹30 crore scam, there is a possibility of fake procurement of ₹16 crore worth paddy having been adjusted through transport that never happened. Also, a significant portion of the paddy shown as transported to 17 mills has actually been sold in local market through middlemen."

44
civilians killed in jihadi attack in western Niger

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	32	23	TDS	Los Angeles	20	10	SNY
Colombo	32	25	SNY	Melbourne	19	15	LC
Dhaka	35	24	SNY	Moscow	-6	-9	LS
Dubai	30	20	SNY	New York	-2	-9	SNY
Houston	31	18	SNY	Singapore	30	25	LR
Istanbul	26	14	SNY	Toronto	-7	-17	LS
London	7	2	SNY	Washington	11	7	LC

Rescue workers clear the rubble of a residential house destroyed by a Russian drone strike in Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine on Friday | AP

Russia hopes for progress at Saudi talks with US on Ukraine situation

US negotiators to separately meet delegates of Russia, Ukraine to evolve a lasting solution

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is hoping to achieve "some progress" at talks in Saudi Arabia on Monday, a Russian negotiator told state media some 48 hours before the United States meets delegations from both Ukraine and Russia in a bid to halt the three-year conflict.

Moscow has rejected a joint US-Ukraine proposal of a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire, instead suggesting just to halt aerial strikes on energy facilities. Despite that offer, both sides have continued to launch aerial attacks in the run-up to the negotiations.

US negotiators will meet separately with Ukrainian and Russian delegations in Saudi Arabia on Monday, in what US envoy Keith Kellogg described as "shuttle diplomacy" between hotel rooms. Despite the flurry of diplomacy and push from US President Donald Trump, a breakthrough has so far proved elusive. "We hope to achieve at least some progress," Russian senator Grigory Karasin, who will lead the Russian delegation, told the Zvezda TV channel, without specifying on what issue.

He said he and fellow negotiator, FSB advisor Sergey Beseda would take a "combative and constructive" mood into the talks. A senior Ukrainian official told AFP a day earlier that Kyiv hopes to secure agreement "at least" on a partial ceasefire covering attacks on energy, infrastructure and at sea.

"We are going with the mood to fight for the solution of at least one issue," Karasin told Zvezda, which is owned by Russia's defence ministry.

He said they were leaving for Saudi Arabia on Sunday and would return on Tuesday.

Russia's choice of negotiators for the talks has raised questions as the pair are outside of traditional diplomatic decision-making institutions like the Kremlin, foreign ministry or defence ministry.

Karasin is a career diplomat who now sits in Russia's upper house of parliament, while Beseda is a long-time FSB officer and now an advisor to the security service's director.

The FSB in 2014 admitted that Beseda was in Kyiv during a bloody crackdown in the Ukrainian capital in the midst of the country's pro-EU revolution.

Ukraine has accused Russia of not genuinely seeking peace and slammed its ongoing attacks, despite Russian President Vladimir Putin saying he had ordered a halt to attacks on Ukrainian energy sites. *AFP*

THREE KILLED IN RUSSIAN ATTACKS ON UKRAINE

Kyiv: The Russia launched a drone attack on the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, killing three people and wounded 12, Ukrainian officials said Saturday, despite agreeing to a limited ceasefire. Regional head Ivan Fedorov said residential buildings, cars and communal buildings were set on fire in the Friday night attack. Photos showing emergency services scouring the rubble for survivors. Ukraine and Russia had last week agreed in principle to a limited ceasefire after US President Donald Trump spoke with both sides,

US decides to revoke legal status for 500,000 immigrants

WASHINGTON

THE United States said Friday it was terminating the legal status of hundreds of thousands of immigrants, giving them weeks to leave the country.

President Donald Trump has pledged to carry out the largest deportation campaign in US history and curb immigration, mainly from Latin American nations.

The order affects around 532,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans who came to the United States under a scheme launched in October 2022 by Trump's predecessor Joe Biden and expanded in January the following year.

They will lose their legal protection 30 days after the Department of Homeland Security's order is published in the Federal Register, which is scheduled Tuesday.

That means immigrants sponsored by the program "must depart the United States" by April 24 unless they have secured another immigration status allowing them to remain in the country, the order says.

Welcome.US, which supports people seeking refuge in the United States, urged those affected by the move to "immediately" seek advice from an immigration lawyer.

Nicolette Glazer, an immigration lawyer in California, said the order would affect the "vast majority" of the half a million immigrants under the CHNV scheme. "A vast majority of the CHNV parolees will find themselves without status, work permits ... the chaos will be unreal," she posted on X. *AFP*

A file photograph of President Donald Trump near Mexico. The new decision to revoke legal status of immigrants is meant to curb illegal immigration | AP

Fatah urges Hamas to cede power to safeguard 'Palestinians' existence'

GAZA CITY

PALESTINIAN president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah movement called on its Islamist rivals Hamas on Saturday to relinquish power in order to safeguard the "existence" of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

"Hamas must show compassion for Gaza, its children, women and men," Fatah spokesman Monther al-Hayek said in a message sent to AFP from Gaza.

He called on Hamas to "step aside from governing and fully recognise that the battle ahead will lead to the end of Palestinians' existence" if it remains in power in Gaza.

Hamas seized power in Gaza in 2007 from the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Authority, and subsequent attempts at reconciliation have failed.

The territory has been devastated by an Israeli offensive in retaliation for the assault by Hamas and other Palestinian militants on Israel on October 7, 2023.

Following disagreement over the next steps in a January 19 ceasefire in the Gaza war, Israeli resumed air strikes on Tuesday, followed by ground operations the day after.

On Friday, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz threatened to annex parts of Gaza unless Hamas frees the remaining Israeli hostages seized in the October 7 attack.

Of the 251 hostages taken that day, 58 are still being held, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead. Hamas's 2023 attack on Israel led to 1,218 deaths, mostly civilians. *AFP*

Israel fires rockets at Lebanon in retaliation, kills two

Beirut: Israel struck Lebanon on Saturday in retaliation for rockets targeting Israel, killing two, including a child, in the heaviest exchange of fire since the ceasefire with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Earlier, rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israel, for the second time since December, sparking concern about whether the fragile ceasefire would hold. Hezbollah denied being responsible for the attack, Israel had said that it would respond "severely" to the early Saturday attack from Lebanon. Israel's army said the intercepted rockets targeted the Israeli town of Metula. Lebanon has appealed to the U.N. to pressure Israel to fully withdraw from the country.

Displaced Palestinians move between southern and northern Gaza along a beach road away on the outskirts of Gaza City on Friday | AP

It's business as usual at Heathrow airport on Saturday | AP

Heathrow airport back to normal after shutdown

LONDON

HEATHROW Airport said it was "fully operational" Saturday but there were some delays and cancellations as Europe's busiest air hub resumed operations a day after a power station fire caused travel mayhem.

The electricity substation blaze knocked out power at the London airport, closing it for most of Friday before some flights began to arrive and take off later in the evening.

The shutdown affected thousands of passengers around the world and raised serious questions about the reliability of one of the UK's most critical pieces of infrastructure.

"We can confirm that Heathrow is open and fully operational today," an airport spokesperson said on Saturday morning.

"Teams across the airport continue to do everything they can to support passengers impacted by yesterday's outage at an off-airport power substation."

About 1,350 flights were affected by Friday's closure, according to the Flightradar24 tracking website. Around 120 Heathrow-bound planes were in the air when the closure was announced and had to be diverted.

Delays and cancellations were likely throughout Saturday as airlines scrambled to clear a backlog of flights and reposition aircraft and crews. The scale of the disruption -- which saw a back-up transformer fail, meaning systems had to be closed down -- raised questions about Heathrow's vulnerability.

Heathrow Airport's chief executive Thomas Woldbye told the BBC he was "proud" of the airport's response and said he would "let others judge" if he should step down. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Large rally in Istanbul over mayor's arrest

Istanbul: Tens of thousands of people rallied at Istanbul's city hall for a third day on Friday to protest the arrest of Istanbul's mayor and top rival to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, despite the Turkish leader's stern warning that street protests would not be tolerated. The rally remained peaceful. Police used pepper spray and tear gas to push back hundreds of protesters who tried to break through a barricade in front of the city's historic aqueduct.

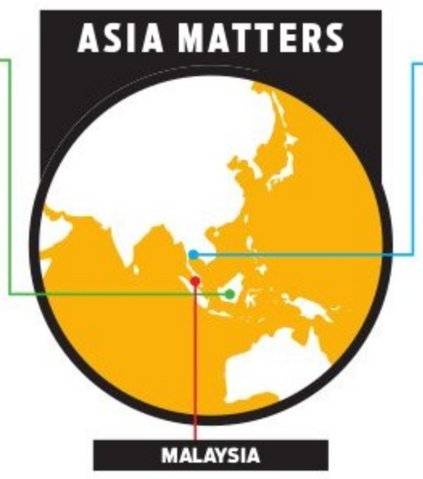
Pope to make 1st public appearance on Sunday

Rome: Pope Francis will make his first public appearance on Sunday with a blessing and a wave from Rome's Gemelli hospital where he was admitted on February 14 with breathing problems. The 88-year-old pontiff has been battling pneumonia in both lungs after being hospitalised. "Pope Francis intends to wave and offer a blessing from the Agostino Gemelli hospital in Rome after Angelus prayers," The Vatican said Saturday. The pope has missed the Angelus prayers for five straight weeks.

Evacuation orders as 4 killed in S Korea wildfire

Seoul: At least three firefighters and a public servant have been killed in a wildfire in South Korea, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency in southeastern regions, authorities said on Saturday. The fire, which began in Sancheong county on Friday afternoon, prompted the deployment of 304 personnel, along with 20 helicopters, according to South Korea's Interior Ministry. More than 200 residents in 15 southern villages have been told to evacuate, it added.

ASIA MATTERS



INDONESIA

ACCOLADES FOR FREE LUNCH PROGRAMME

President Prabowo Subianto said Friday that he has received letters from world leaders inspired by and keen to study the Nutritious Free Lunch (MBG) policy promoted by his government, Antara News reported. "This is an outstanding achievement. I have received letters from world leaders who said that they want to study our policy," the president told cabinet ministers and officials during the plenary cabinet meeting at the Presidential Palace complex here. He said that world leaders are keen to understand the free lunch program.

U.S. CHARGES FIVE FOR RUNNING SCAM

Five Malaysians have been charged in US for their involvement in a US$214 million (RM950 million) "pump-and-dump" investment scheme. "The misleading promotion and coordinated trading caused the stock price to artificially rise, at which point the defendants sold shares and made millions of dollars in profits," the indictment stated.

THAILAND

ETHICS PROBE INTO EX-MPs NEARS END

The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) said yesterday that an ethics probe against 44 former MPs of the now-dissolved Move Forward Party (MFP) seeking to amend the lese majeste law is in its final stage. Sarote Phuengramphan, the NACC's secretary-general, said the accused have been summoned to clarify and present their defence, and the inquiry is expected to conclude within months. Mr Sarote said the charge against the 44 is an intentional ethical breach and failure to comply with moral requirements, not criminal misconduct.

Japan, China and S Korea reach consensus to promote peace in Korean peninsula

TOKYO

JAPAN, South Korea and China agreed Saturday that peace on the Korean peninsula was a shared responsibility, Seoul's foreign minister said, in a meeting of the three countries' top diplomats in which they pledged to promote cooperation.

The talks in Tokyo followed a rare summit in May in Seoul where the three neighbours -- riven by historical and territorial disputes -- agreed to deepen trade ties and restated their goal of a denuclearised Korean peninsula.

But they come as US tariffs loom over the region, and as concerns mount over North Korea's weapons tests and its deployment of troops to support Russia's war against Ukraine.

"We reaffirmed that maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula is a shared interest and responsibility of the three countries," South Korea's Cho Tae-yul told reporters after the trilateral meeting.

Seoul and Tokyo typically take a stronger line against North Korea than China, which remains one of Pyongyang's most important allies and economic benefactors.

Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya said he, Cho, and China's Wang Yi "had a frank exchange of views on trilateral cooperation and regional international affairs... and confirmed that we will promote future-orientated cooperation". "Only by sincerely reflecting on history can we better build the future," he said. *AFP*

Denmark asks transgenders to inform US embassy on travel plans

COPENHAGEN

THE Danish foreign ministry has changed its US travel advisory for transgender people, following other European countries such as Germany and Finland who suggest they may face difficulties when trying to enter the United States.

The Nordic country wrote on its website that transgender people should contact the US Embassy before travelling to the United States. 'When applying for an ESTA or visa to the United States, there are two gender designations to choose from: male or female,' the Danish travel advisory stated in an update Friday.

'If you have gender designation X in your passport, or you have changed your gender, it is recommended that you contact the US Embassy prior to travel for guidance on how to proceed," the ministry said. *AFP*

TOP GUN

Britain's most valuable Cold War spy inside KGB dies at 86

LONDON

OLEG Gordievsky, a Soviet KGB officer agent who helped change the course of the Cold War by covertly passing secrets to Britain, has died. He was 86.

Gordievsky died in England, where he had lived since defecting in 1985. Police said they are not treating his death as suspicious. Historians consider Gordievsky one of the era's most important spies. In the 1980s, his intelligence helped avoid a dangerous escalation of nuclear tensions between the USSR and the West.

Born in Moscow in 1938, Gordievsky joined the KGB in the early 1960s, serving in Moscow, Copenhagen and London, where he became KGB station chief. He was one of several Soviet agents who grew disillusioned with the USSR after Moscow's tanks crushed the Prague Spring freedom movement in 1968, and was recruited by Britain's MI6 in the early 1970s.

In 1983, Gordievsky warned the UK and US that the Soviet leadership was so worried about a nuclear attack by the West that it was considering a first strike. Soon after, US President Ronald Reagan began moves to ease nuclear tensions with the Soviet Union.

Documents declassified in 2014 showed that Britain considered Gordievsky so valuable that then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sought to cut a deal with Moscow: If Gordievsky's wife and daughters were allowed to join him in London, Britain would not expel all the KGB agents he had exposed.

Moscow rejected the offer, and Thatcher ordered the expulsion of 25 Russians, despite objections from Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, who fared it could scuttle relations just as reforming Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was easing the stalemate between Russia and the West. *AP*

$104 bn total imports from China in the April-February period of FY25, up 10.5% year-on-year

Getting wired for new competition

Entry of Adani and Birla groups is likely to intensify competition, consolidation in cables & wires sector

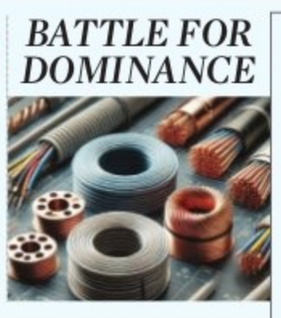
ARSHAD KHAN@ New Delhi

THE entry of two of India's largest business houses -- the Aditya Birla Group and the Adani Group -- into the cables and wires (C&W) market underscores the growth potential of this sector. The Indian C&W industry, valued at $9 billion in 2024, has been growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12-13% over the past five years and is expected to maintain this momentum. Industry experts project that the market could double in size by FY29, driven by strong demand from key sectors such as infra, housing, power, railways, renewables and data centres.

Aditya Birla Group's UltraTech earlier this year announced plans to enter the C&W market with a capital expenditure of Rs 1,800 crore over the next two years while Adani Enterprises' subsidiary, Kutch Copper Limited (KCL), which has completed the incorporation of a joint venture company - Praneetha Ecocables Limited (PEL) - will focus on the manufacturing, marketing, and distribution of metal products, cables, and wires.

Manish Valecha, deputy head of research, Anand Rathi Institutional Equities, said that the growth outlook remains strong and the C&W industry is projected to grow at a 12-14% CAGR going ahead . Rising exports and increased capacity will further drive growth, meeting the robust domestic and global demand, added Valecha.

While the domestic market remains balanced, companies are also exploring export opportunities. According to Nuvama Research, the industry has significant export potential with players likely to divert additional capacities to meet global demand. India is benefiting from the China+1 strategy, wherein businesses are diversifying their supply chain. The industry is also expected to benefit from the shift taking place from unorganised to organised players, with the organised segment's market share rising from 68% in FY19 to 73% in FY24. This shift, driven by competitive dynamics and quality improvements, is expected to continue, strengthening the industry's structure.


BATTLE FOR DOMINANCE
Market grew at a CAGR of
12-13%
over the past 5 years. Growth rate likely to continue
CABLES AND WIRE MARKET SIZE IN 2024
$9 BILLION
New entrants
Adani Enterprises and Aditya Birla Group's UltraTech
Incumbent players face heat
shares of listed players are down 25-35% in 2025
In the cables space
Polycab leads with a 20% market share followed by KEI (12%)

Advantage Birla and Adani

The Birla Group's entry into the C&W market extends its construction value chain presence, following the launch of its paint business - Birla Opus - last year. >From white cement to paints, and now wires and cables, the group is diversifying across the sector. Experts believe that Group company Hindalco's copper and aluminium business could synergise with its C&W venture and provide raw materials at competitive prices.

Similarly, Adani's move into C&W aligns with its cement and copper businesses, directly competing with Birla. Adani's Kutch Copper project supports its green energy ambitions and aims to establish global leadership in copper, leveraging its strengths in logistics, renewables, and infrastructure.

Besides having a strong retail footprint, the two players are also deep-pocketed and have the financial strength to sustain thin margins and capture market share in the long term, potentially reshaping the competitive landscape of the wires and cables industry.

Setback for incumbents

The entry of Adani and Birla into the C&W (cables and wires) sector is set to intensify competition in a market currently dominated by players like Polycab, Havells, Finolex Cables, and KEI Industries. The announcement of UltraTech's entry earlier caused a sharp decline in the shares of existing players, and a similar reaction was observed when Adani revealed its plans.

In the cables segment, Polycab leads with a 20% market share, followed by KEI (12%), Havells (8%), and KEC (6%). In wires, Finolex (15%), RR Kabel (12%), Polycab (10%), V-Guard (8%), Anchor (7%), and Havells (6%) are the key players.

"This is an industry where no single player commands more than 15% share in wires and 20% in cables. The industry comprises nearly 400 players, ranging from SMEs to large enterprises, with revenue between Rs 50 crore and Rs 400 crore. The industry is, therefore, ideal for a new entrant with deep pockets," said JM Financial last month.

The arrival of Adani and Birla could trigger consolidation in this fragmented market, posing risks to existing leaders.

Valecha, however, feels that UltraTech and Adani's entry is unlikely to immediately disrupt the high-growth sector (a 13% CAGR), where demand is expected to exceed supply for five years but may affect competition and industry margins in the long run. "Large players like Polycab and KEI may diversify into high margin export business (approvals take long) while small players may come under the threat of consolidation (similar to Adani's strategies implied in Cement sector)," added.

NEWSCOPE

TRUMP'S TARIFF DEADLINE IS 'LIBERATION' OR 'YOKE'?

GURBIR SINGH

INDIA'S trade officials are putting up a brave front and hoping to reach a broad bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with a visiting US team next week. This, they say, will help ward off a slew of punishing tariffs that are due to kick in on 2 April, next month. Privately, they know there is little chance to deflect Donald Trump's tariff blitzkrieg.

The first round of tariffs on aluminium and steel imposed on Mexico, Canada and China have been roiling US and Asian markets; and consumer confidence in the U.S. has plummeted. This has not deterred Trump. He has repeatedly said 'tariffing' friend and foe is the panacea to generate billions and bring back industries to the mid-west American 'rust belt'.

Answering reporters' questions on an Air Force One flight a few days ago, he called 2 April 'Liberation Day'. "It's a liberation day for our country because we're going to be getting back a lot of the wealth that we so foolishly gave up to other countries," he said. To questions whether he would ease up tariffs considering the anxieties about its inflationary effects, he said 'no'.

Though Donald Trump's flip-flops are legend, he has been steady on his view that India is preventing the entry of US goods using the highest tariffs in the world. Either countries like India come to heel and reduce tariffs, or they face a new regime of equivalent tariffs from 2 April.

In an interview days ago with the right-wing news outlet, 'Breitbart News', Trump did not mince his words. "I believe they're probably going to be lowering those tariffs substantially, but on April 2, we will be charging them the same tariffs they charge us."

Asked about his recent meeting with Prime Minister Modi, Trump said: "I have a very good relationship with India, but the only problem I have with India is they're one of the highest tariffing nations in the world," he added.

IT'S ABOUT SELF-RELIANCE

On the face of it, Trump has a case. World Trade Organization data shows India's simple average tariff rate is 17 percent, compared to about 3.3 percent for the U.S. On a trade-weighted basis, India's rate is about 12 percent compared to the US' 2.2 percent. It is also true India is among the highest tariffing nations. China's average rate is 2.35 percent, the European Union is 1.39 percent. Trump never tires of mentioning how Harley Davidson was forced to exit India on the back of 120 percent import duty.

SOURAV ROY

But then Indian and US is not an apple-to-apple comparison. The United States' industry and services are strides ahead of India. In many sectors, India cannot compete on an even plane. It was the Nehruvian socialistic policies that brought in high tariffs to encourage local industry by erecting a firewall to keep international competition at bay. The reformist Narasimha Rao government in 1991 and subsequent BJP governments have pulled back a little, but have largely continued to endorse high tariffs.

Tariffs, however, cannot be a permanent regime, and once local industry matures, it should be allowed to compete with international players. This also guarantees consumers a free choice, as it should be. But how does one determine the perfect tipping point?

Domestic FMCG and auto manufacturers have matured, but have prevailed upon government to continue cozy tariffs that keep competition out. On the other hand, millions of small and micro units (MSMEs) will be forced out of business and crores rendered jobless if tariff protection is lifted.

FALLING IN LINE

Unlike Canada, Mexico and China, India has not adopted an aggressive posture. In fact, it has been a policy of appeasement in the face of US threats. Dismantling of customs duty on selective goods began with the Union Budget; and before the Prime Minister's visit to the US in mid-February. In the Budget, 36 life-saving drugs for treatment of cancer and other chronic diseases were exempted of customs duty. For MSMEs, duty on cobalt powder and waste, scrap of lithium-ion batteries, lead, zinc and 12 more critical minerals was waived.

But the US side has repeatedly signaled they are not impressed by this piecemeal approach. India will have to lift a broad swathe of tariffs and make up the imbalance in the two countries' massive annual $130 billion trade. All the pointers indicate President Trump is going to come down with a vengeance on 2 April, considering his deal-making to bring peace to Ukraine and Gaza have largely failed.

Carping under Trump's barbs that India is a 'tariff king', India is considering tariff cuts in at least a dozen sectors, from electronics to medical equipment and chemicals, to boost U.S. exports. India also plans to increase energy product imports from the United States, estimated at over $11 billion in FY 2025. Leather and textiles, agricultural products are also on the list, as well as cars and alcohol, which carry tariffs of over 100 percent.

Once the iron dome of tariffs is lifted, there will be a perceptible negative impact on 'self-reliance', and small, labour-intensive local industries are bound to suffer. As it is much less is spoken these days of 'Make in India' and *atmanirbharta*.

Offshore online gaming cos under scanner ahead of IPL

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AHEAD of the IPL season, The Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI) has intensified its enforcement actions against offshore online gaming entities, which evade paying GST in India.

According to a media statement by the DGGI, it is keeping a close watch on around 700 offshore entities involved in the supply of online money gaming, betting and gambling. "It has been noticed that these entities are evading GST by failing to register, concealing taxable pay-ins, and bypassing tax obligations," says the media statement.

The DGGI has informed that So far, it has blocked 357 websites/URLs of illegal/non-compliant offshore online money gaming entities, in coordination with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), under Section 69 of IT Act, 2000.

The online money gaming industry comprises both domestic and foreign operators.

Under GST law, 'Online Money Gaming', being an actionable claim, is classified as a supply of 'Goods' and is subject to a 28% tax. Entities operating in this sector are required to register under GST.

In a recent operation against some of the illegal gaming platforms, DGGI targeted and blocked bank accounts that were being used to collect money from participants, attaching nearly 2,000 bank accounts and Rs 4 crore, in coordination with the I4C and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). In another action, 392 bank accounts linked to UPI IDs found on websites of some of these offshore entities have been put on debit freeze and a sum totalling ₹122.05 crore has been provisionally attached in these accounts.

Another operation against a few Indian nationals, who were running Online Money Gaming Platforms from outside India, was conducted by DGGI. It revealed that these individuals were facilitating online money gaming to Indian customers through various such online platforms including Satguru Online Money Gaming Platform, Mahakaal Online Money Gaming Platform and Abhi247 Online Money Gaming Platform and are using mule bank accounts to collect money from Indian customers.

DGGI has so far blocked 166 mule accounts linked with these platforms. Three such persons have been arrested till now and investigation against more such individuals is under progress.

The Ministry of Finance has maintained that non-compliance by foreign entities distorts fair competition, harms local businesses, and skews the market. These unscrupulous foreign entities circumvent restrictions by creating new web addresses. Investigations also revealed that these companies operated through 'mule' bank accounts to process transactions. Funds collected through mule accounts leave the potential to be funneled into illicit activities which may also be dangerous for the national security point of view.

Star Health gets ₹49-crore GST notices

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

CHENNAI-based Star Health and Allied Insurance has received ₹49 crore GST notices from as many as six states including Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka and Telangana. The notices have been served for several instances of non-compliances from 2018-19 to 2023-24. These include non-payment of GST on the transactions, non-disclosure of coinsurance as follower transactions in the statutory returns filed from time to time and non-issuance of invoices for coinsurance as follower services.

The standalone health insurance company has received a maximum of ₹19.5 crore GST notice from Maharashtra GST authorities followed by Tamil Nadu (₹16.3 crore) and ₹4.7 crore from Delhi GST Authorities.

The ₹ 49.5 crore tax demand include both unpaid taxes and penalty levied for non-compliance.

Meanwhile, the company has said in an exchange filing that it has a strong case based on merits, to successfully defend these matters. "No impact is expected on the financial, operation or other activities of the company," it said.

PLI schemes help bring ₹1.61 lakh cr investments

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Production-linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has resulted in investment of around Rs 1.61 lakh crore till November 2024 and generated production/sales of around Rs 14 lakh crore against targets of 15.52 lakh crore up to 2024-25, the government on Saturday said. The scheme, aimed at promoting manufacturing in the country, also created direct and indirect employment of over 11.5 lakhs.

In a press release issued on Saturday, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that 764 applications have been approved under PLI Schemes for 14 key sectors as on date. As many as 176 MSMEs are among the beneficiaries of PLI schemes in sectors such as bulk drugs, medical devices, pharma, telecom, white goods, food processing, textiles & drones.

The PLI schemes have also helped boost exports of manufacturing goods, with exports surpassing Rs 5.31 lakh crore -- with significant contributions from sectors such as Large-Scale electronics manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, food processing, and telecom & networking products.

Incentive amount of around ₹14,020 crore disbursed under PLI Schemes for 10 sectors -- large-scale electronics manufacturing (LSEM), IT hardware, bulk drugs, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, telecom & networking products, food processing, white goods, auto & auto components and drones & drone components.

The ministry said that India has achieved 60% import substitution in telecom products under the PLI scheme for Telecom & Networking Products.

A prosperous Ugadi begins with GRT Jewellers

Founded in 1964, GRT Jewellers has grown from humble beginnings into a celebrated name in the jewellery industry, proudly marking 60 years of excellence. With an unwavering commitment to quality and craftsmanship, GRT offers a diverse collection of Gold, Diamond, Platinum, Silver, and Gemstones. Today, the brand continues to win hearts across 62 showrooms. Carrying this legacy forward, GRT Jewellers introduces a special campaign for Ugadi, called 'Swarna Ugadi'. This campaign marks the dawn of a new year full of prosperity, renewal, and hope. As a part of the celebration, GRT presents exclusive offers: Rs.50 Less per gram on gold jewellery purchase.

NALCO contributes ₹10.10 Cr to Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College & Hospital, Koraput

As part of its CSR initiative to sustainable development, Navratna CPSE NALCO has extended a financial contribution of ₹10.10 crore to Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College & Hospital, Koraput. On behalf of the Company, the cheque was presented by Niranjan Samal, Executive Director (M&R), NALCO V. Keerthi Vasan, IAS, Collector & District Magistrate, Koraput in the presence of Asutosh Rath, Executive Director (H&A), NALCO and Prof (Dr) Susanta Kumar Sahu, Superintendent cum Dean & Principal, SLN Medical College & Hospital, at the Koraput Collectorate. This financial assistance, provided through Nalco Foundation, will be used to procure essential and advanced medical instruments.

Business & Beyond

City Union Bank is now exclusive banking partner of Sunrisers Hyderabad

City Union Bank (CUB), one of India's leading private sector banks, has announced its partnership with Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) as their exclusive banking partner. This collaboration aims to bring fans closer to the exciting world of cricket while delivering enhanced banking services and experiences. Through this partnership, City Union Bank will provide a variety of customized services and exclusive offers for SRH fans, players, and staff, blending the power of banking with the thrill of cricket. This alliance reflects both City Union Bank's commitment to innovation and its dedication to connecting with sports enthusiasts across India. City Union Bank will offer a range of exclusive banking products, including customized savings accounts, loans, and co-branded credit cards designed for SRH supporters. Cardholders can expect special rewards, discounts on SRH merchandise, and access to exclusive fan experiences.

South Eastern Railway celebrates International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated by South Eastern Railway at its headquarters, Garden Reach with great enthusiasm. Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway was the Chief Guest at the programme. Soumotra Majumdar, Additional General Manager, Principal Head of the Departments and women employees of different departments were present on the occasion. Dr. Mahua Verma, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, S E Railway welcomed the distinguished guests at the function. 55 women employees of SER were felicitated for outstanding contribution in their respective jobs .

Redevelopment of Shalimar railway station of South Eastern Railway

Shalimar Railway Station is one of the major Railway Terminal of South Eastern Railway. It is an important hub for long-distance trains, particularly those connecting Kolkata to various parts of India. Shalimar Station was initially developed as a goods terminal before and later being upgraded to a passenger station. It was introduced as an alternative to Howrah Junction to decongest train traffic. Over time, it has gained importance, especially for South Eastern Railway bound trains. It helps in reducing the extra rush at Howrah Junction. Shalimar Station primarily serves Express and superfast trains operated by the South Eastern Railway.

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | SPORT

13 BENGALURU SUNDAY 23.03.2025 newindianexpress.com

Swiss Open: Treesa and Gayatri lose marathon tie

Shuttlers Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost a gruelling battle against World No 1 Chinese pair of Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning in the women's doubles semifinal encounter of the ongoing Swiss Open in Basel. The Indians started on a bright note but eventually went down 21-15, 15-21, 12-21 in a contest that lasted 92 minutes.

Sohail Tanvir was one of the heroes for Rajasthan during the inaugural edition of the IPL

NEIGHBOUR'S ENVY OWNER'S PRIDE

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

THE inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2008 marked a watershed year for the T20 format. It showed the world a new way to play cricket, with commerce and entertainment freely mingling with the sport. It also witnessed the participation of Pakistan players in the league. Because of political tensions, which escalated following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, players from across the border have not taken part in subsequent years.

The first season saw an array of superstars from the neighbouring nation plying their trades for various franchises with three of them — Younis Khan, Kamran Akmal and Sohail Tanvir — going on to win the title. Among the trio, Tanvir played a key role in Rajasthan Royals walking away with the honours. The left-arm medium pacer picked up 22 wickets including the only six-fer of the tournament to clinch the Purple Cap.

With Pakistan players not featuring in the league anymore even as the 18th edition of the tournament got underway on Saturday, Tanvir said the situation was unfortunate.

"It is very unfortunate that after playing in the first edition we couldn't play in the IPL," he said when asked about the absence of Pakistan players from the league. "I have always advocated that politics and cricket should not be mixed. I always speak about it. I feel it's a loss for both sides. Whenever I visited India, I have seen the craze for our players among Indian fans and the love the cricketers got in this country. Had Pakistan players played in the IPL, it would have made the IPL more wonderful. At the same time, Pakistan players would have got an opportunity to develop as players and individuals." Reminiscing his association with Royals, Tanvir admitted he was quite excited as he was a new kid on the block. "Obviously, it was the first time such a league was going to be organised so it was new for everyone. Nobody knew what the outcome would be so it was natural whenever any new thing happens, there is an excitement about it. Another thing, I was very new at that time. I started my international journey in September 2007 during the T20 World Cup. Also before the 2008 IPL, I had toured India so I knew how crazy the fans were about cricketers in the country. The excitement level was very high. At the same time, it was a challenge for me as a young player as all the stars of that time were part of the league. So playing with and against them and making a name for myself was a big challenge for me. It was a wonderful experience."

Sunday Special

> Absence of Pakistan players from IPL loss for both sides: Tanvir, 2008 Purple Cap winner

IPL made me a better player

The 40-year-old, among the first few T20 specialists, credited the IPL for helping him develop not only as a cricketer but also as an individual. "I have always spoken about how the IPL helped me shape my career. That success in the IPL helped me in becoming a good white ball cricketer. Not only a white ball player but as a cricketer and as an individual. That success boosted my confidence. When you are young and you play with such mega stars from around the globe... In any series, you play against a team but playing in IPL and making a name for yourself was something else. It gave me a lot of confidence. It helped me become a better player."

Post that success in 2008, he went on to play for over 20 franchises across the globe but he still remembers his Rajasthan teammates fondly, especially Ravindra Jadeja. "In 2008, Jadeja, (Virat) Kohli... all of them have returned after winning the U-19 World Cup. Jadeja was always lively and naughty. You expect an U-19 player, especially if he is from the sub-continent, to be shy in the company of seniors but he was not like that. It really showed his character as he was very confident. In due course of time, he proved his abilities. The way he has served Indian cricket, it is there for everyone to see. If you ask me, it was his confidence that helped him emerge as a good cricketer," Tanvir opined.

Indian bosses one of reasons

Pakistan, who won the T20 World Cup in 2009, were one of the earliest innovators of the format. In recent times, though, their team has fallen by the wayside but they still have genuine match-winners in their ranks. However, all 50 Pakistan players (45 men and five women) were ignored during the recent The Hundred Draft.

It sparked a debate as the presence of Indian owners was cited as one of the possible reasons. Tanvir said it may not be the sole factor. "It's a bit of both," he said. "Performance could be one of the reasons but influence of Indian owners is also a factor as I have witnessed it in several leagues I have played for and heard the talks. I'm telling you from my experience.

Affirming that at least a couple of Pakistan players in the draft have the potential to make it to any side, the southpaw held that the rejection of all of them didn't make sense. "Out of 45 Pakistan men players, no one was picked. I am not saying all the players should have been picked but two-four players are there who can fit in any side."

He also blamed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for adding to the woes of the players. "The PCB's policy on giving no-objection certificate (NOC) is also a reason. It happened in the past when the PCB gave NOCs and then called back the players. It hurts the franchise. A team management picks a player with a plan and if that key player skips the league at the last moment, then it affects the plan. It makes it difficult for the team to find a perfect replacement in the eleventh hour. It's a mix of everything, I will say."

Tanvir also paid rich tributes to his Rajasthan captain Shane Warne and echoed the common sentiment about Warne being the greatest captain Australia never had. "I totally agree, Warne was the greatest captain Australia never had. Great cricketing brain. He was a genius. There is no doubt that he was a legendary bowler but it's not necessary every good cricketer possesses a good cricketing brain. But he was blessed with good cricketing knowledge. He knew how to take performances from the youngsters, from seniors and how to build and carry a team. Credit to him for how he got performance out of me, Jadeja, Yusuf Pathan and Shane Watson. All of us were new and not established names then but he made us match winners," he signed off.

CSK's MS Dhoni during a training session in Chennai on Saturday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Eye on Chennai spinners vs MI

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

CHENNAI Super Kings may have the edge over Mumbai Indians when the two IPL powerhouses meet in the 18th edition of the marquee tournament at Chepauk on Sunday. The hosts, led by Ruturaj Gaikwad, covered all bases in the last auction and have a strong side. The visitors have won none of their last 11 opening matches. "Our team is balanced," said skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad. "We have almost covered all the departments (at the auction), it is just, you know, stepping onto the ground and as you said, playing a brand (fearless) of cricket which we have been playing." One significant subplot is the hosts' combination. Do not be surprised if they play three frontline spinners, including Noor Ahmad and R Ashwin, two of their biggest signings at the mega auction. "I think Mustafizur (Rahman) and (Matheesha) Pathirana both were playing together, so that didn't make way for (Maheesh) Theekshana and (Mitchell) Santner as well. But obviously when you have someone like Ashwin, Jadeja and Noor... if conditions suit us, it will be a big threat for the opposition."

When asked about MS Dhoni's fitness, Gaikwad said: "He (MSD) is already an impact player," the opener smiled. "I mean, everyday, we get to see him, obviously it inspires a lot (of us). You know, lot of new players have joined the team and you know, sometimes they as professional cricketers struggle to strike the ball as good as Dhoni is striking it right now. Whatever Dhoni is doing at the age of 43, I think it is remarkable,"

In the 2024 edition, the keeper-batter came in around the 19th-over mark to maximise his death-overs hitting. It looks likely he may reprise that role this season as well. "I think his training is very much limited to whatever he tries to achieve or whatever his role would be in the IPL. So, it is pretty much very simple, focussed on trying to hit as many sixes as possible and trying to get the right swing, trying to be in the best shape.

"That is what I think initially he was trying to do and then I never thought he was out of shape..."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Parag is a capable leader, says Sanju

AGENCIES @Hyderabad

SANJU Samson on Saturday conceded that missing the first three IPL matches of this season "feels a bit different" but placed his trust on stand-in skipper Riyan Parag to guide Rajasthan Royals well in his absence.

Samson is yet to recover completely from a right index finger injury that he suffered during the series against England. "I have never missed a game as a complete player. Coming to the season as not fully fit feels a bit different. But the team looks good. We are also happy to have Rahul Dravid back with us," said Samson here on the eve of the match against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Samson said Parag is 'capable' to lead the team as he has shown enough qualities to earn that honour.

Pragmatic approach: Vettori

Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori on Saturday backed the decision to use a second ball in the evening matches to mitigate the dew factor during the season, calling it a "pragmatic answer to a difficult problem." The BCCI announced that one ball would be changed in the second innings of evening games at the bowling team's request to counter dew. "I think it's a really pragmatic answer to a difficult problem, and it doesn't affect every ground, we know that," Vettori told reporters on the eve of SRH's opening match against Rajasthan Royals.

With teams regularly breaching the 250-270 mark, expectations are high that the 300-run barrier could be crossed this IPL season.

Set for first double-header

Last season's finalists, Sunrisers Hyderabad, face off against Rajasthan Royals in the first afternoon match of the 2025 edition. A look...

1 A big season for Parag

The focus will be on Riyan Parag, the stand-in captain, for at least the first three games. He came into his own last year as he put up eye-catching numbers from No. 4. Continue in the same vein and he will be knocking on the India door with the T20 World Cup round the corner. Sanju Samson may play as an impact player.

Hyderabad's batting approach

In 2024, Hyderabad showed what was possible with the bat. They redefined the grammar of batting in the T20 format thanks to Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head's kamikaze at the top. With Ishan Kishan in the mix and Heinrich Klaasen also in the middle, they are well set to ape it for this season as well.

3.30 PM | Hyderabad

Live on Star Sports on JioHotstar

Chennai test for Mumbai

After a middling 2024, both Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians are set to go in with a new template across phases. A look...

2 Combination issue for visiting side

With Hardik Pandya suspended and Jasprit Bumrah out indefinitely, Mumbai face a head-ache to field a balanced side. Ryan Rickelton and Trent Boult are expected to be in the XI but could Corbin Bosch be an overseas all-rounder? With a dearth of quality Indian spinners, Mitchell Santner may also get a look in.

Spin to win at Chepauk

R Ashwin and Noor Ahmad, Chennai's big-money signings, may usher in a change on the kind of surfaces at Chepauk. Over the last few years, the MA Chidambaram Stadium has veered away from the traditional template of assisting spin. Last year, spinners claimed only 25 wickets (pacers accounted for 74) at the venue.

7.30 PM | Chennai

Royal Challengers win season-opener

AGENCIES @Kolkata

PHIL Salt and Virat Kohli's 95-run first-wicket stand helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a comfortable victory over defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders in the inaugural match of the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League.

On a belter of a surface on Saturday night, following the festiviites where Shah Rukh Khan & Co. grooved and sang to ring in the league in front of a capacity crowd at the Eden Gardens, the hosts underpunched. After being asked to bat first, they got off to a quick start but suffered in the back end after the visiting spinners reeled them in. As a result, their innings crumbled from a healthy-looking 107/1 off 9.5 overs to 174/8 in their 20 overs.

The batters just couldn't get going as Krunal Pandya and Josh Hazlewood maintained a stranglehold. The former, one of the better defensive spinners in the league, picked up 3/29 in his four overs. Salt, who loves to take the game on, began in earnest with a boundary off the first ball. What really set the game for them was the he charged at Varun Chakravarthy as he went 2, 4, 6, 4, 4, in the fourth over. At the other end, Kohli hit Spencer Johnson for back-to-back sixes straight back over the Australian's head.

The intent married shot execution as the bowlers were left searching for answers. They couldn't find any as the visitors cantered to the target just after the second strategic time out.

Brief scores: KKR 174/8 in 20 ovs (Rahane 56, Narine 44; Krunal 3/29) **lost to** RCB 177/3 in 16.2 ovs (Kohli 59 n.o, Salt 56, Patidar 34).

Aboobacker shines to bag triple jump gold

ENS @Bengaluru

FOR the first competition of the season, anything above 17m in men's triple jump would be considered good. The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games silver medallist, Abdulla Aboobacker, jumped 17.19m to win gold in the men's triple jump at the fourth edition of the Indian Open Jumps Competition on Saturday. The newly-constructed athletics arena at the Anju Bobby George Jumps academy was witness to some competitive triple jump with Tamil Nadu's Praveen Chithravel giving Aboobacker a close fight. Chithravel won silver with a jump of 17.13m.

The automatic qualification for the Tokyo World Championships later this year is 17.22m. Though Aboobacker did have an ideal series fouling four out of six, but jumped the longest in the last to secure gold.

The main goal for both the jumpers would be to achieve the automatic qualification mark of 17.22m. Bronze went to Haryana's Ashok Yadav.

Select results: Men: Triple jump: Aboobacker 17.19m, Chithravel 17.13m, Ashok Yadav 15.94m. **High jump:** Sarvesh Anil Kushare 2.19m, Uchchaal Roy 2.13m, Swadhin Majhi 2.13m. **Women: Long jump:** Moumita Mondal 6.44m, Ancy Sojan 6.33m, Sandra Babu 6.03m. **Triple jump:** Sheena NV 13.04m, Poorva Hitesh Sawant 12.98m, Nimisha D 12.95m. **High jump:** Abhinaya S Shetty 1.80m, Supriya SB 1.74m, Pallavi Patil 1.74m.

EXPRESS READ

Nat'l boxing c'ship: Cruise for Nitu, Jaismine

GREATER NOIDA: Former world champ Nitu Ghanghas and CWG medallist Jaismine Lamboria posted commanding wins, while Railway boxers showcased their dominance on Day 2 of the women's national boxing meet. Both Nitu (48kg) and Jaismine (57kg) recorded 5-0 wins.

Argentina edge closer to 2026 World Cup

MONTEVIDEO: Argentina edged to the brink of qualification for the 2026 World Cup on Friday after a superb strike from Thiago Almada earned them a 1-0 win over Uruguay. Meanwhile, Thomas Tuchel made a winning start to life as England coach with a 2-0 win against Albania.

BOXING LEGEND

Fearsome heavyweight who became a beloved champ

GREG BEACHAM

GEORGE Foreman became the heavyweight champion of the world in his 20s, only to lose his belt to Muhammad Ali in perhaps the most memorable fight in boxing history.

A full 20 years later in 1994, the 45-year-old Foreman became the oldest man to win the heavyweight championship, throwing one perfect combination to steal Michael Moorer's title in an epic upset. Few fighters ever had more big moments than Big George Foreman — and even after he finally left the ring, he was only getting started.

The fearsome heavyweight, who lost the "Rumble in the Jungle" to Ali before his inspiring second act as a surprising champion and a successful businessman, died Friday night. Foreman was 76. Foreman's family announced his death on social media, not saying how or where he died.

"A devout preacher, a devoted husband, a loving father and a proud grand- and great-grandfather, he lived a life marked by unwavering faith, humility and purpose," his family wrote. "A humanitarian, an Olympian and two-time heavyweight champion of the world, he was deeply respected. A force for good, a man of discipline, conviction, and a protector of his legacy, fighting tirelessly to preserve his good name— for his family." A native Texan, Foreman began his boxing career as an Olympic gold medalist who inspired fear and awe as he climbed to the peak of the heavyweight division by stopping Joe Frazier in 1973. His formidable aura evaporated only a year later when Ali pulled off one of the most audacious victories in boxing history in Zaire, baiting and taunting Foreman into losing his belt.

Foreman left the sport a few years later, but returned after a 10-year absence and a self-described religious awakening.

The middle-aged fighter then pulled off one of the most spectacular knockouts in boxing history, flooring Moorer — 19 years his junior — with a surgical right hand and claiming Moorer's two heavyweight belts. Foreman's 20 years is easily the longest gap between heavyweight title reigns. Foreman's transformation into an inspirational figure was complete, and he fought only four more times — finishing 76-5 with 68 knockouts — before moving onto his next career as a genial businessman, pitchman and occasional actor.

George Foreman

Outside the ring, he was best known as the face of the George Foreman Grill, which launched in the same year as his victory over Moorer. The simple cooking machine sold more than 100 million units and made him much wealthier than his sport ever did. "George was a great friend to not only myself, but to my entire family," Top Rank president Bob Arum said. "We've lost a family member and are absolutely devastated." In the first chapter of his boxing career, Foreman was nothing like the smiling grandfather who hawked his grills on television to great success. Foreman dabbled in petty crime while growing up in Houston's Fifth Ward, but changed his life through boxing. He made the U.S. Olympic team in 1968 and won gold in Mexico City as a teenager, stopping a 29-year-old opponent in a star-making performance.

Foreman rose to the pinnacle of the pro game over the next five years, but was also perceived as an aloof, unfriendly athlete, both through his demeanor and through the skewed racial lenses of the time. Jim Lampley, the veteran boxing broadcaster who worked alongside Foreman for many years at HBO, told *The Associated Press* on Friday night that Foreman's initial demeanor was an attempt by his camp to emulate Sonny Liston, the glowering heavyweight champ of the 1960s.

The Associated Press

NEWS WRAP

Duleep Trophy goes back to inter-zonal format

KOLKATA: The BCCI Apex Council re-introduced the inter-zonal format for the Duleep Trophy — the first class tournament for six regions. Last year, the national selection committee had picked squads on the basis of players' performance in the Ranji Trophy. However, North, South, East, West, Central and North-East Zones will now compete for the Duleep Trophy title instead of A, B, C and D teams competing in Challenger Trophy format.

Chinese GP: Hamilton off the mark for Ferrari

SHANGHAI: Lewis Hamilton roared to his maiden win in Ferrari red in the Chinese GP sprint on Saturday but the man he beat — McLaren's Oscar Piastri — later scored his first-ever pole position in main race qualifying. Piastri will be joined on the front row for Sunday's 56-lap race by the Mercedes of George Russell after a thrilling day of action. Hamilton was only fifth in qualifying.

Pranati wins bronze in gymnastic World Cup

NEW DELHI: Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak on Saturday secured a bronze medal in the Vault Final at the FIG Artistic Gymnastics Apparatus World Cup in Antalya, Turkey. The 29-year-old came up with a total score of 13.417 in the vault final to finish third, behind American duo of Jayla Hang (13.667) and Claire Pease (13.567). "It is a great feeling to start the year with a medal. It is a good confidence booster for me," Pranati said.

Modern warfare
STRUCTURES AND DIRECTIONS

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

"From time to time the superstructure of tactics has to be altered or wholly torn down; but the old foundations of strategy so far remain, as though laid upon a rock."
-Alfred Thayer Mahan

THE rapid infusion of technology into warfare is not only enhancing the performance of arms and equipment but also stimulating the consequent changes in induction, tactics and deployments. In India, a lot of tweaking is taking place in the Army, Navy and Air Force, many of them initiated by the Head Quarter Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS). The direction is towards synergy and integration so as to eventually align with the higher defence management structures. The country's war waging structure/machinery is being moulded to make it suitable for technologically driven modern warfare.

A Future Analysis & Operations Group (FAOG) has been created under the HQ IDS, which works as a nodal organisation for jointmanship in the Ministry of Defence where the integration of policy, doctrine, war fighting and procurement is work in progress.

A Standing Committee on Defence on the 'Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 2025-26, in its Seventh Report (18th Lok Sabha) first revealed the formation of FAOG. The panel agreed that the defence modernisation budget cannot be predicted to a large extent, and underscored the need for intensive study and knowledge of emerging trends in technology that will have an impact on the art of warfare. Three such emerging sectors shared by the ministry with the panel are robotics automation, velocity (which uses hypersonic drones, etc.) and intelligence warfare (includes artificial intelligence, data analytics and machine learning).

The report also revealed that a Future Warfare Fund has been set up within the armed forces. A Future Analysis Group for studying future technologies and their impact, is also proposed to be set up. Commending the proactive efforts of the ministry, the committee recommended that adequate budgetary provisions for research and development in this direction be made available to the armed forces.

As per sources, the fund and the group are part of the ongoing reorganisation of the structures of the armed forces and the HQ. The stimulus for FAOG were the changes in warfare and lessons drawn from recent wars like the Russia-Ukraine, Hamas-Israel, Azerbaijan-Armenia, the sources added.

A direction was sent to all the services to create a similar setup on modern warfare in their structures and allocate resources. The FAOG started functioning about six months back and the Future Warfare Fund was created to "join hands with the agencies, think tanks, academics, research institutes and specialists for their recommendation, direction and guidance to empower FAOG".

The FAOG will club ideas from the services and build synergy. Ultimately, it is expected to assist with reorientation, re-orbatting (reorganising and redeploying existing military units) and re-equipping the forces. The FAOG has a clear responsibility with accountability, the sources said.

The HQ IDS was raised on October 1, 2001 to provide an institutional framework for managing defence at the highest level. Its purpose is to integrate the three Services and other relevant elements in the quest for credible and comprehensive national power. Other structural changes are in process.

Force restructuring is an essential and ongoing initiative to effectively align organisational structures with emerging threats and technological advancements. The Eighth Report (18th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Defence, cites an army officer as saying, "The Indian Army has successfully implemented significant reorganisations within its Cyber, Electronic Warfare and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Units. Furthermore, the Indian Army will establish new combat units and headquarters that prioritise emerging technologies including manned and unmanned teams. We are also committed to meeting the evolving requirements of theaterisation and greater integration with the other two Services. Force structuring aims to keep pace with the requirements of contemporary and future battlefields. Rebalancing is now looking at review of structures and command and control, beside training orientation of the Indian Army schools of instruction. It will further look at implementation of new structures and capability building to conduct multi-domain operations that are mandated due to emerging interdependencies."

Structural transformation: Work in progress

The Indian military's war fighting structures are at present led by the military commands of the individual services. Eventually, the Army, Navy and Air Force will dovetail into the Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs). The concept of theatre command is to meet

the requirements of modern warfare. It will have structures based on integrated planning and operations under one unified authority with responsibility and accountability. These structures will have components of different wings placed under one commander instead of their own Service Chiefs.

The proposed ITC structures will be created from the existing command structure of each Service. At present, the three armed forces function with 17 independent commands: Army and Air Force have seven commands each while the Navy has three commands.

For context, China in 2016 reorganised its seven military regions into five theatre commands with the Indian border falling into the operational responsibility of its Western Theatre Command.

Army overhaul

Plans to overhaul the headquarters of the world's second-largest Army received final approval in July 2019. The aim was to transform it into a more lethal force to meet the desired offensive and defensive capabilities of modern warfare. The whole exercise was done in four parts - restructuring the headquarters, reorganising the Army, cadre review of officers, and enhancing the colour service (active service, not reserve) of soldiers.

This newspaper was the first to report that the headquarters freed up 129 officers of the ranks of Major and Lt Colonels to join the fighting formation in field areas. In all, 1,332 officers, including the Chief of Army Staff, were earlier posted at Army HQ. That figure was trimmed to 1,203 in the revamp. Within the headquarters, various posts and departments doing the same work were either done away with or pruned and merged with other verticals.

Among the changes made were the merger of the Director General Military Training (headed by a Lt General) with the Army Training Command and being now managed by a Major General. Similarly, the Rashtriya Rifles, based out of Delhi was moved to the Northern Command, Udhampur for better operational coordination, as this force of the 63 battalions operates in Kashmir. Also, it is now headed by a Major General instead of a Lt General.

Besides, a new post of the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) was carved out to oversee the work of Military Operations, Military Intelligence and Operational Logistics, and Information Warfare. This is meant to reduce the burden on the vice chief's office.

All these changes were introduced following a study. Based on its recommendations, the terms of employment of soldiers and Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and the officers have also been revamped. To retain trained soldiers, the minimum compulsory service period was raised to the 17 years as against the earlier 15 years.

Similarly, an officer now will become a Colonel sooner - in 23 years instead of 25-26 years. On the operational front, the fighting formation of Integrated Battle Groups (IBG), which will hit the enemy fast and with overwhelming firepower, will eventually come up. Sources said the work on it is almost done.

Cyber and Special Forces Divisions

The Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD) is taking shape with the wargaming of specialised scenarios to develop drills and operating procedures so that the special forces of each service can operate jointly. Commando integration exercises are on to develop common operational procedures. Given the sensitivity and significance of the special forces, it will take some time to reach the specialised level, sources added.

The AFSOD, approved in 2019, comprises the special forces of the Army, Navy and Air Force. As reported by this newspaper earlier, AFSOD initially will have about 3,000 special forces commandos from the Parachute Regiment of the Army, MARCOS of the Navy and the Garud Commandos of the Air Force. It is expected to be based in Agra, which already is the base of the Parachute Brigade.

The initial proposal was to raise a strategic level formation with the Special Forces Command headed by a Lt General. As of now, the Division is under the control of the Integrated Defence Staff headed by the Chief of Defence Staff. Although the Naresh Chandra Task Force had in 2012 recommended the creation of a cyber command, an aerospace command and Special Operations Command, it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who announced its formation in 2018. The Defence Cyber Agency was created in 2018.

Doctrinal changes for jointness

Joint doctrines are also in the making. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan released the Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations on June 18, 2024, in New Delhi. It is a keystone publication that will guide Commanders in conducting cyberspace operations.

EXPERT SPEAK

SUDHAKAR JEE
Major General (Retd)
Defence Analyst

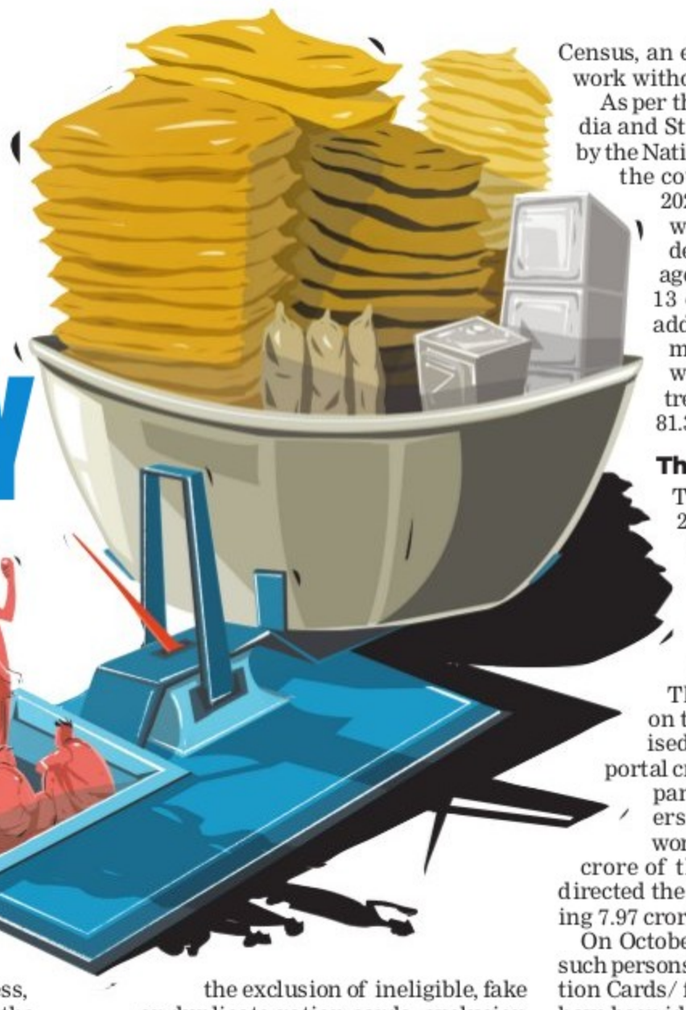
TIME FOR 6G WARFARE

The Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 and the pager and walkie-talkie attacks by Mossad against the Hezbollah rank and file on September 17 and 18, 2024, demonstrated an unprecedented dimension of conflict. They brought forth the concept of 6G warfare as the next frontier. Navigating the emerging military technological advancements and their application continue to retain primacy and present new challenges in warfare in the 21st century. While 5G technology has already begun to revolutionise military operations, 6G promises to take them to an unprecedented level.

The reported adoption of AI-driven miniature "swarm drones" to hit enemy targets with pinpoint accuracy or with loitering capability aimed at confirming identification of the enemy target first, locking on to it and planting on the forehead of the target soldier based on "facial identification", piecing explosives and exploding inside the skull of a soldier - by some of the Western armies, including the US and Israel, is a classic example of the next level of multi-domain operations in modern warfare. The Chinese claim to have accomplished expertise on the established six domains of land, air, sea, cyber, space and electromagnetic spectrum.

Modern warfare will be driven by technology. He who controls technology will dominate the world. The future of modern warfare may not be on the side of the country with conventional military supremacy but with the country that has a booming economy, technology and innovations.

LEFT OUT OF THE FOOD SECURITY NET



JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

RECENTLY, the government informed a parliamentary standing committee on Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution led by Kanimozhi, that the difference between the target beneficiaries as per the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013 and the actual count is about 0.79 crore people. The committee presented its eighth report on the demands for grants for the financial year 2025-26 to both Houses of Parliament, highlighting concerns about a slight decline in the number of beneficiaries, which stands at 80.56 crore at present, compared to the mandated limit of 81.35 crore under the NFSA.

The report revived discussions on the insufficient coverage of beneficiaries, as the current limit is based on the 2011 Census. There is an ongoing case in the Supreme Court seeking to adjust the estimated number of beneficiaries in light of the delayed decadal Census of 2021. The prolonged postponement of the population Census has led to concerns about the gaping holes in the national welfare net.

Paradigm shift

The NFSA on July 5, 2013, marked a paradigm shift in the approach to food security from welfare to a rights-based approach. The Act entitles coverage of up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population to receive highly subsidised food grains. The law covers almost two-thirds of the country's population, which comes to 81.35 crore people as per Census 2011. They receive subsidised food grains, distributed at ₹3/kg for rice, ₹2/kg for wheat and at ₹1/kg for coarse grains. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) launched in 2020 subsumed the NFSA three years later.

In the wake of the economic disruptions caused by the unprecedented outbreak of Covid-19, the government in March 2020 announced the distribution of additional free-of-cost food grains (rice/wheat) to about 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries at 5 kg per person per month under the PMGKAY. It effectively meant doubling the quantity of monthly food grains distributed through the public distribution system (PDS). The idea was not to let the vulnerable households suffer in the wake of the economic crisis during the nationwide lockdown.

Between April 2020 and December 2022, approximately 1,118 LMT of food grains were allocated under the PMGKAY, with a financial outlay of about ₹3.91 lakh crore. Acknowledging the continuing rural distress, the government subsequently extended the free food grain scheme from January 1, 2023 for the next five years.

Less than the prescribed limit

Currently, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, only 80.56 crore beneficiaries are getting free food grains. The parliamentary committee found that there is still scope for identification of 0.79 crore beneficiaries. The government responded that the identification of the beneficiaries was a continuous process, adding it issues advisories to states from time to time to identify genuine people and filter out the rest. The process involves the exclusion of ineligible, fake or duplicate ration cards, exclusion on account of death, migration etc., and inclusion on account of birth.

Meanwhile, larger issues came to the fore on the quantification of the left out population due to the delay in the decadal Census. The 2011 data is grossly insufficient to assess beneficiary gaps, which has ballooned, say experts.

13 crore out of ambit?

While enacting the landmark welfare Act, experts feel that perhaps Parliament did not anticipate a situation where the Union government would fail to carry out the decadal Census, an exercise that went on like clockwork without interruption since 1881.

As per the 'Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036' report published by the National Commission on Population, the country's projected population in 2025 would be 141 crore. In other words, if a Census were to be undertaken now and the NFSA coverage revised accordingly, more than 13 crore people would have been added to the food security net. The matter went to the Supreme Court, with activists challenging the Centre's refusal to breach the limit of 81.35 crore beneficiaries.

The SC order

The Supreme Court on April 20, 2023 (Miscellaneous Application No. 94/2022 in SMW© No. 6/2020 In Re: Problems and Miseries of Migrant Labourers) directed the government to add eight crore people to the list of PMGKY beneficiaries.

The figure SC proposed was based on the registration of the unorganised sector workers on eShram, a portal created in August 2021 during the pandemic to track migrant labourers. There are 28.60 crore registered workers on the portal but only 20.63 crore of them have ration cards. The SC directed the government to add the remaining 7.97 crore to the PDS network.

On October 4 last year, the court said, "all such persons who are eligible (entitled for Ration Cards/ foodgrains as per the NFSA) and have been identified as such by the respective States/Union Territories, must be issued Ration Cards before 19.11.2024." However, the government refused to budge.

Why Centre is stalling

In its affidavit, the Central government argued that issuing ration cards to an additional 8 crore people would violate the legally prescribed ceiling and quotas set forth in sections 3(2) and 9 of the NFSA. "The fiscal sustainability of the NFSA requires a defined ceiling limit on the number of beneficiaries, as outlined in the Act, to void rendering it open-ended. This ceiling, grounded in the 2011 Census, is a fundamental principle of rightful targeting, as set forth in Sections 10 and 24 of the NFSA. The GOI, is bound by the explicit provisions of Sections 3(2) and 9 of the NFSA, which establish coverage limits, and submits that it is constrained from exceeding these statutory boundaries unless such provisions are deemed ultra vires by this Court or are duly amended by Parliament," the affidavit said.

Furthermore, the government indicated that state governments would need to finance the additional food grains from their own resources. Several states, including Punjab, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Delhi, reported that they had exhausted their state-level ration card quotas determined by the 2011 Census. Although they sought additional food grains from the Central pool to provide rations to ashram registrants as directed by the SC, no extra food grains or quotas were granted.

The Madhya Pradesh Food Department was an outlier as it issued ration cards to ashram registrants, exceeding the quota fixed based on the 2011 Census. But despite multiple requests, the Central government provided no additional food grains, thus halting the issuance of more ration cards to eligible ashram registrants.

"Millions of men, women, and children are excluded from the food security net due to the Central government's failure to conduct the Census and to comply with the SC's directions," said Anjali Bhardwaj, one of the petitioners to the SC and a campaigner for the Right to Food.

Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan told the court that "All the people registered in the e-Shram portal are the ones whose income is less than ₹10,000 per month. That is why, the other bench, repeatedly said, one after the another in six orders, don't bother about the restrictions of the Food Safety Act. You have to provide because food is an Article 21 right. Second, you have not done the census of 2021. Therefore, all those eligible and have registered but do not have ration cards, provide them with ration cards and give them ration."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta was sarcastic in the reaction to the "so-called PIL" by an "armchair intellectual" who was attempting to "run the government".